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PM, CDF greet Zeeshan on historic space mission, hail achievement as source of pride

Speak live with Pakistani astronaut aboard Tiangong space station

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Chief of Army Staff and Chief of Defence Forces Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir held a live conversation with Pakistan's first astronaut Muhammad Zeeshan Ali, who is currently aboard China's Tiangong Space Station, during the visit to SUPARCO in Islamabad today.

In his remarks, the Prime Minister expressed immense pride in Muhammad Zeeshan Ali, saying he represents the beginning of Pakistan's manned mission into the space. He expressed the confidence the knowledge that Zeeshan Ali will bring back, will open an important chapter in Pakistan's pursuit for excellence in Science and Technology and other related fields.

Shehbaz Sharif said Zeeshan Ali's journey is a living testament to Pakistan's belief that outer space should serve peaceful purposes and collective wellbeing of the entire humanity around the globe. He said the experiments that Zeeshan Ali is conducting alongside talented Chinese brothers are not just for Pakistan, they will enrich the collective scientific knowledge of international community.

Shehbaz Sharif said our friendship with China is described as higher than the Himalayas and deeper than the oceans emphasizing that this friendship has now soared beyond the skies. He said this landmark space mission comes as the two great countries celebrate seventy-five years of their diplomatic relations.

The Prime Minister expressed his gratitude to President Xi Jinping saying his visionary leadership and steadfast commitment to Pakistan-China friendship has taken the all-weather strategic cooperative partnership to unprecedented heights. He said our iron brother China has given Pakistan the honour of being its first foreign partner in its space program. He said this unparalleled gesture shall forever remain etched in the hearts and minds of the people of Pakistan.

The Prime Minister

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Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Chief of Defence Forces, Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir held a live conversation with Pakistan's first astronaut Muhammad Zeeshan Ali, who is currently aboard China's Tiangong Space Station, during the visit to SUPARCO in Islamabad.



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister / Foreign Minister Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar chairing a meeting of the committee for Monitoring and Implementation of Conservation and Additional Austerity Measures, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Conference to help promote Punjabi language: Atta Tarar

LAHORE (APP): Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar has said that the Punjabi language is popular not only in Pakistan but also across the world.

He was addressing the 4th International Punjabi Conference at the Punjab Institute of Language, Art and Culture (PILAC) here on Saturday. "Teachers play a significant role in our upbringing and success," he said. The minister welcomed Diljeet Pal Singh Brar, Ashok Bhaura, Nasir Dhillon, Ahmad Raza Punjabi, Abdul Sahib, Gurpreet Singh Dhugga and other participants in the conference.

He said he had recently met Ghian Singh from British Columbia, who visits Pakistan every year, along with 100 to 200 pilgrims. The minister said he had told Ghian Singh that Pakistan was fortunate to have the holy sites of the Sikh community and that it was a privilege to have the opportunity to serve Sikh pilgrims. He said Pakistan also hosted Sikh pilgrims arriving from across the world every year and expressed pleasure over the opportunity to facilitate its guests.

He thanked Farrukh Shahbaz Warraich, Ahmad Raza Punjabi and Nasir Dhillon for organising the event, saying that holding such an event was the government's responsibility, but the participants had taken the initiative, which was highly appreciable.

Referring to the announcements made by Punjab Assembly Speaker Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan regarding the promotion of the Punjabi language, the minister said the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and Pakistan Television would extend all possible support in this regard. He said the participants could develop a Punjabi-language programme, and he would help to get it aired on tele-

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DPM reviews austerity measures in federal govt

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Prime Minister/ Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar Saturday chaired a meeting of the Committee for Monitoring and Implementation of Conservation and Additional Austerity Measures at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and reviewed the implementation status of decisions taken in its earlier meetings, assessing compliance across federal government and attached departments with regard to austerity measures.

The DPM/FM directed all ministries and provincial governments to ensure enforcement of austerity directives, prioritising only the most essential expenditures without compromising service delivery.

The meeting was attended by the Minister for Information Technology & Telecommunication; SAPM Tariq Bajwa; Secretaries of the Cabinet, Interior, Election Commission of Pakistan, and Information & Broadcasting; Special Secretary Finance; senior officials from all provinces, AJK, and GB; and representatives from concerned ministries and departments.

Fazl's son Asjad released, returns home

ISLAMABAD (INP): Maulana Asjad Mahmood, son of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman, has been released and returned to his residence.

Media reports said senior JUI-F leaders held talks with police officers at Secretariat Police Station, after which Asjad Mahmood was released and went home. Senator Kamran Murtaza urged party workers to return to their homes now that Asjad Mahmood was back. Asjad Mahmood said, "I have returned; workers should now remain peaceful."

Earlier, Islamabad Police had called reports circulating about Maulana Asjad Mahmood's arrest baseless and false. According to the Islamabad Police spokesperson's post on X, he had not been arrested and no action had been taken in this regard.

The public was asked not to believe rumours or share unverified reports.

It may be recalled that JUI-F spokesperson Aslam Ghauri had said that Maulana Asjad Mahmood, son of party chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman, had been arrested.

No one can bring down govt if political forces remain united: Bilawal Bhutto

Says PPP, PML-N have learned from 'past mistakes', urges continuity in development projects

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has said that no one can bring down the government if political forces remain united.

Addressing a ceremony to lay the foundation stone of the Sindh Institute of Urology and Transplantation (SIUT) in Rahim Yar Khan, Bilawal Bhutto said political and democratic means could be used to resolve issues and make progress possible.

He stressed that political leaders should learn from mistakes made by their elders.

Bilawal noted that former prime ministers Benazir Bhutto and Nawaz Sharif had signed the Charter of Democracy, adding that Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz was continuing that tradition and he wanted to do the same.

Speaking at a rally in Rahim Yar Khan a day earlier, the PPP chairman warned what he described as conspiratorial elements against making the proposed South Punjab province a controversial issue.

He said he did not support dividing Punjab into four provinces but backed the creation of a separate South Punjab province, saying this was also the position of the Punjab Assembly.

PPP chairman said people in South Punjab believed in democracy and that the province would be established through democratic struggle.

Bilawal said that the political leadership of both the PPP and the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) had learned from "past mistakes", particularly the practice of successive governments to abandon and delay projects initiated by their predecessors.

Bilawal has been tour-

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PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari addresses a ceremony marking the laying of the foundation stone of the Sindh Institute of Urology and Transplantation in Rahim Yar Khan.

Fazl's Islamabad residence sealed after CDA cancels property transfer over alleged irregularities

ISLAMABAD: The Capital Development Authority (CDA) on Saturday sealed the Islamabad residence of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman over alleged irregularities in property ownership documents.

The development came amid escalating tensions between the government and JUI-F, after Fazl was prevented from leaving his Lahore residence ahead of a scheduled address to lawyers at the invitation of the Lahore High Court Bar Association. Punjab police had deployed a heavy contingent outside his residence, restricting his movement.

According to the CDA order, the transfer of a 1,200-square-yard property, located at House No. 7, Street 83, Sector G-6/4, Islamabad, in the name of Amanullah, son of Muhammad Younas, had been cancelled.

The authority said the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) had cancelled Amanullah's identity card, making it invalid for the property transfer. It added that the identity document submitted for the transfer was not valid and that the basic requirement for the transaction had therefore not been met.

The CDA said the transfer based on what it described as forged documents violated its property manual. It further stated that the property had been acquired by a foreign national without prior government permission, which it said was required under the Foreigners Act 1946.

The authority said the action was taken based on reports submitted by the district magistrate and the Islamabad Foreigners Regional Registration Office (IFRRO).

A district magistrate, accompanied by officials, arrived at the residence as

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ZIARAT: Provincial Minister for Commodity Management Department and Chairman Balochistan Food Authority Haji Noor Muhammad Dummar inaugurates computer lab at Al-Harmain School Kawas during his visit.

President Zardari, Mohsin Naqvi discuss country's current sitation

LAHORE (INP): The President of Pakistan, Asif Ali Zardari, has visited the residence of Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi in Lahore.

Punjab Assembly Speaker and leader of Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N), Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan, was also present at the meeting.

The discussions focused on the current political situation in the country, including matters relating to Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Fazlur Rehman (JUI-F) and its leader, Maulana Fazlur Rehman.

The participants also exchanged views on various political issues, including matters concerning the provinces.

The meeting comes a day after President Zardari held talks with PML-Q President Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain.

PTA fixes submarine cable fault as internet connectivity returns to normal across Pak

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) on Saturday announced the restoration of the SEA-ME-WE 5 (SMW5) international submarine cable system after repairing a fault, helping bring internet services and connectivity across Pakistan back to normal. On November 18, the PTA reported a fault in the SEA-ME-WE-5 (SMW-5), one of the international submarine cable systems, approximately 11 kilometres off Pakistan's coast. In a press release posted on X, the PTA confirmed the cable was now "fully operational" and reaffirmed that internet services across the country had returned to "normal operating capacity". The press release noted that Transworld Associates (TWA) and the international SMW5 Consortium worked closely to resolve the fault and restore connectivity, adding that technical teams worked round the clock to resolve the fault.

PM strongly condemns drone attack in Kuwait

Directs Pak Envoy to ensure best care for injured Pakistani citizen in Kuwait

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Saturday, strongly condemned the recent drone attack on Kuwait.

"Pakistan stands in full solidarity with the leadership and people of brotherly Kuwait. We reaffirm our firm support for Kuwait's sovereignty, security and territorial integrity and underscore that these must be fully respected," the prime minister posted on X handle.

He also extended his heartfelt condolences to the families who lost their lives and prayed for the swift recovery of those injured, including a Pakistani.

Pakistan Embassy in Kuwait was in close contact with the Kuwaiti authorities and was providing all necessary assistance to the injured Pakistani national, he added. On the special instructions of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Pakistan's Ambassador to Kuwait Dr. Zafar Iqbal, visited a hospital to inquire after a Pakistani citizen who was injured in a drone attack.

Ahsan, Chinese minister discuss accelerating CPEC SEZs, boosting exports

BEIJING (APP): Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal and Vice Minister of Commerce of China Yan Dong on Saturday discussed proposals to accelerate the establishment of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and enhance Pakistan's exports to the Chinese market.

During the meeting, Professor Ahsan Iqbal highlighted the significant potential for Pakistani products in China, pointing out that China imports goods worth approximately $3 trillion annually, whereas Pakistan's exports to the neighbouring country stand at around $3 billion.

He said Pakistan's share in China's total imports was merely 0.1 per cent, reflecting considerable untapped potential for Pakistani products in the Chinese market. The discussions also focused on attracting investment in export-oriented industries within CPEC Special Economic Zones and facilitating the participation of Pakistani business delegations in trade exhibitions and business meetings in China.

Such initiatives would provide Pakistani businesses with opportunities to showcase their products, establish direct contacts with Chinese buyers.



BEIJING: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal met with Mr Lu Hao, President of China's Development Research Center (DRC), to discuss joint research and a practical roadmap for increasing Pakistan's annual exports beyond US$100 b by 2035.

DG ISPR holds sessions with University students, faculty during Sindh visit

KARACHI (INP): Director General Inter-Services Public Relations (DG ISPR) Lieutenant General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry held special sessions with students and faculty at various universities, including IBA, during his visit to Sindh. Participants' questions were answered in detail, and students expressed their resolve to foil the enemy's nefarious designs.

He said raising awareness among young people about national unity, national security and effectively countering enemy propaganda was urgently needed. During the visit, the DG ISPR also held special sessions with students and faculty at the University of Sindh, Mehran University, Liaquat University and Shaheed Allah Bux University. He gave detailed and reasoned answers to participants' questions and discussed ways to raise awareness about national unity, national security and enemy propaganda. Participants expressed their resolve to play a positive role in national unity, stability and Pakistan's development. Students said the sessions helped them understand social media propaganda, national awareness and the Pakistan Army's role in national defence. They said the younger generation stood alongside the Pakistan Armed Forces and was determined to foil the enemy's nefarious designs. Addressing students and faculty at the Institute of Business Administration (IBA), the DG ISPR stressed that raising awareness among young people.



MQM-P leaders Syed Mustafa Kamal and Farooq Sattar addressing a press conference in Karachi.

MQM-P postpones Nov 29 rally, renews demand for smaller administrative units

KARACHI (INP): The Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) on Saturday cancelled its rally and congregation scheduled for November 29 during a press conference at the party's headquarters in Bahadurabad. MQM-P leaders Dr. Farooq Sattar and Federal Minister for Health Syed Mustafa Kamal addressed the press conference. Addressing the presser Syed Mustafa Kamal said, "We do not want to create any law and order situation in the city at all. Even if we have to cancel it 10 times, we will do so."

He said that new dates for rally and congregation will be announced in December. He stated that law enforcement agencies had expressed fears of a terrorism risk at the rally, adding that even if they had been granted permission, the party would not have held the gathering due to the risk of clashes. "By cancelling the rally, we have demonstrated our patriotism," he said. He alleged that Bilawal Bhutto had spoken of bloodshed while naming Karachi, Hyderabad, Sukkur, and Mirpurkhas, calling it a formal threat that the MQM-P was taking very seriously.

Referring to groups planning a separate rally tomorrow, he claimed they were the "B-team" of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), alleging that the PPP had funded and nurtured anti-state elements. Farooq Sattar termed the Sindh government's decision to allow another party to hold a rally "discriminatory and unfair," arguing that if a nationalist party planned a gathering, authorities should have stopped both events.

Digital transformation need of the hour: Ahmed Khan

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Assembly (PA) Speaker Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan has said that digital transformation is the need of the hour, stressing that the government and private sector must work together to advance this agenda through collective efforts.

He said this while addressing the grand launch of the AZ EdTech System and the Best School Awards ceremony here on Saturday. He said promoting digitalisation was a major challenge that required meaningful contributions from both the public and private sectors. The integration of digital technology into education, he added, was essential to preparing future generations for the challenges ahead. He emphasised that digitalisation must not remain the preserve of children from privileged backgrounds and that students in rural areas must also be provided with equal opportunities.

The speaker said the real test of digital outreach was whether these facilities could extend beyond Lahore and reach schools in far-flung villages. He stressed that digital learning resources, potentially replacing traditional notebooks and pencils, must also reach children across the country, particularly those belonging to the majority of the population. Observing that the world was changing rapidly, he said digitalisation and artificial intelligence (AI) would play a pivotal role in shaping future societies.

The speaker observed that humanity had historically benefited from technologies of its own creation but had also suffered their adverse consequences. Referring to the development of machines for warfare, he said human beings had sometimes faced the destructive consequences of their own inventions. History, he added, taught that the use of human-created technologies and capabilities required caution and a strong sense of responsibility. He maintained that introducing technology alone was not enough in the age of artificial intelligence; equal importance must be given to raising awareness about its appropriate and responsible use. Those associated with education, as well as institutions introducing modern educational systems, could play an important role in this regard. Speaker Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan said he supported the expansion of education through the private sector and the establishment of modern educational institutions.

He stressed the need to establish Centres of Excellence and commended the private sector for its contribution to education and its efforts to promote modern technology. However, he emphasised that equal access to education must remain a priority. The development of modern educational systems must go hand in hand with efforts to include children from underprivileged backgrounds, ensuring that they too benefit from emerging opportunities. He said the equitable distribution of resources and equal access to educational opportunities must be among Pakistan's foremost priorities.



ISLAMABAD: Rai Riaz Hussain poses for a group photograph with participants during a literary discussion on his autobiography titled "Rai Ama," organized by the Fact Forum Think Tank.

Book 'Rai Aama' offers insight into Pakistan's political history, governance: Speakers

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speakers at a literary discussion on the autobiography 'Rai Aama' by veteran bureaucrat Rai Riaz Hussain on Saturday highlighted the book's significance as a personal account of Pakistan's political history, governance, administrative affairs and diplomatic experiences. The discussion was organised by Fact Forum Think Tank, a literary organisation comprising senior writers, scholars, journalists and lawyers, at a local hotel in Islamabad.

The event brought together prominent political figures, former bureaucrats, intellectuals, writers and journalists to discuss various aspects of the book.

Addressing the gathering, former Senator Farhatullah Babar appreciated the author for documenting his professional journey and personal experiences in simple Urdu, saying the book offered valuable insights into the country's political and administrative system. He observed that Rai Riaz Hussain, who had served as press secretary to four prime ministers, had gained a unique understanding of the personalities, expectations and challenges of those in power.

He said the position of a press secretary or speechwriter provided an opportunity to understand the thinking, hopes and apprehensions of political leaders, adding that such sensitive experiences should be documented with dignity and respect. Farhatullah Babar said personal accounts of individuals who had worked closely with the country's leadership could help readers understand important political developments and decision-making processes. Referring to the book's contents, he said it covered the author's early life, education, professional career, personality and published newspaper articles.

Punjab's first international paragliding championship kicks off in Chakwal

CHAKWAL (INP): A pleasant moment occurred during Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif's visit to Chakwal when she took time out from her official engagements to share the scenic paragliding views with children in her family. At the opening ceremony of Punjab's first international paragliding championship in Chakwal, Maryam Nawaz was seen using her mobile phone to show paragliders flying through the air.

A social media user shared a video of the chief minister, writing that she was capturing the beautiful moments on her camera.

Replying to the post on the social media platform X, Maryam Nawaz Sharif said she was not recording a video; she was on a video call showing the paragliding to her grandsons and granddaughters.

She also shared a heart emoji with her message. Amid the colourful parachutes filling the skies over Chakwal, the chief minister's family moment also attracted the attention of social media users. Paragliders from Around the World Take to Chakwal's Skies According to Radio Pakistan, the Punjab chief minister attended the opening ceremony of the province's first international paragliding championship in Chakwal.

All Pakistan Kabbadi Championship at Sargodha University from Dec 2

SARGODHA (APP): The University of Sargodha will host the All Pakistan Universities Kabaddi Championship 2026-27 from December 2 to 4, bringing together teams from 10 universities across the country.

Preparations for the championship were reviewed at a meeting chaired by University Teaching Committee Chairman Prof. Dr. Aamir Ali at the university's Sports Office, where responsibilities were assigned to relevant departments to ensure coordinated arrangements.

GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN
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CORRIGENDUM

Reference Advertisement No. PID (I) 3905/26, dated 29.10.2026 published in the newspapers "Daily Express, Daily Jang, Daily Qudrat Quetta, Daily Independent Quetta, Daily Ahm Khabar Quetta, Daily Nazim News Quetta, and Daily Haal Quetta" regarding recruitment against 14x posts (12x Naib Qasids + 2x Sanitary Workers) in Survey of Pakistan against Balochistan Quota. This corrigendum shall be read as an integral part of the original advertisement.

2. Following necessary amendment (s) are made in the aforesaid advertisement:

Existing Detail in Advertisement	Amendment / Changes
Walk-in Interview at the Geo-Informatics Centre, Survey of Pakistan, Brewery Road, Quetta on 25th November, 2026 (Wednesday) (08:00 am to 04:00 pm).	Walk-in Interview at the following districts of Balochistan on the dates as mentioned against each.

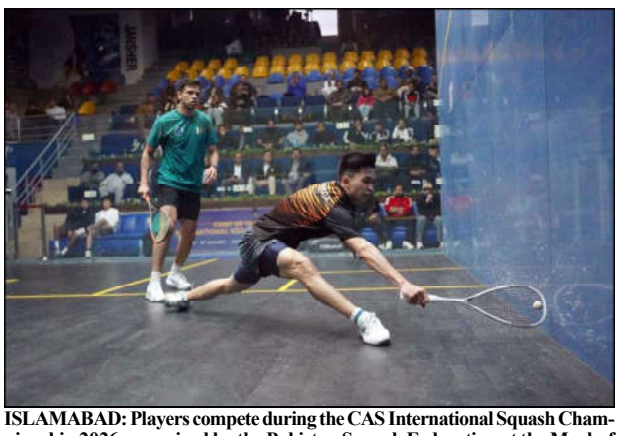
Name of District	Venue of Walk-In Interview	Date & Time
Hub	DC Office Hub	22th – 25th November, 2026
Dalbandin	IT Hub DC Office	27th – 29th November, 2026
Turbat	Turbat Circuit House	1st – 4th December, 2026
Gwadar	Gwadar (Pak-China Voc Inst)	6th December, 2026

3. In case of any difficulty, please contact Mr. Muhammad Asad Rafique, Director (C.C), Geo-Informatics Centre, Survey of Pakistan, Quetta at telephone number 081-9213365.

ALL OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS AS PUBLISHED SHALL REMAIN UNCHANGED.

(MALIK TANVEER AHMED)
Director (Admin) (R.D)
for Surveyor General of Pakistan

PID(I)4936/26



ISLAMABAD: Players compete during the CAS International Squash Championship 2026, organized by the Pakistan Squash Federation at the Mushaf Squash Complex.

Governor meets Bangladeshi parliamentary delegation

KARACHI (APP): A high-level parliamentary delegation of Bangladesh, led by Speaker of the Parliament of Bangladesh, H.E. Hafiz Uddin Ahmad (Bir Bikram), called on Governor Sindh Syed Muhammad Nehal Hashmi at Governor House on Saturday.

Welcoming the delegation, the Governor said that strengthening and expanding close relations between Pakistan and Bangladesh was in the broader interest of both countries.

He said that the people of Pakistan and Bangladesh are connected through common religious, cultural, civilizational and historical bonds. Shared values, mutual respect and people-to-people contacts provide a strong foundation for further strengthening bilateral relations.

The Governor Sindh emphasized the need to enhance cooperation in various fields, including trade, investment, education, culture and parliamentary exchanges. He said that stronger friendly relations between the two countries would also contribute to regional peace, stability and economic development.

He observed that Karachi, being Pakistan's economic hub, could play an important role in promoting trade and economic cooperation with Bangladesh. He also stressed the importance of creating new opportunities for interaction among the youth, business communities and educational institutions of both countries.

The Governor further said that the shared historical heritage and people-to-people connections could give a new dimension to bilateral friendship. Both countries should focus on the future and explore new avenues of mutual cooperation and development.

Speaking on the occasion, Speaker of the Bangladesh Parliament, H.E. Hafiz Uddin Ahmad (Bir Bikram), expressed his longstanding attachment to Karachi, recalling that the city continued to hold special historical significance in Bangladesh as the former capital of united Pakistan.

Sharing memories of his football career, he said that he had represented Pakistan for several years and had many close friends among Karachi's football players.

He highlighted the historical connections between Bengal and Sindh, particularly their roles in the Pakistan Movement. He observed that the Muslim League's significant victories in Bengal and Sindh in the 1946 elections provided an important political foundation for the demand for Pakistan.

The Bangladeshi Speaker emphasized that the time had come to move beyond the past and usher in a new era of friendship, fraternity, brotherhood and cooperation between Pakistan and Bangladesh. He said that the vibrant youth of both countries could play a significant role in strengthening bilateral relations and advancing the shared goals of progress and prosperity.

He also highlighted the democratic traditions of the people of Bangladesh and their continued commitment to democratic values. He stressed the importance of passing on the shared history, political struggle and people-to-people connections of the two countries to future generations.

The meeting was attended by Ms. Jahrat Adib Chowdhury, Member of Parliament and Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs; Members of Parliament Humam Quader Chowdhury, Muhammad Nazibur Rahman, and Ms. Nilufar Chowdhury Moni, Md. Iqbal Hussain Khan, High Commissioner of Bangladesh to Pakistan; renowned industrialist Arif Habib; and other prominent business personalities.



Students tackle pre-admission test for BS English at Government Girls Degree College Larkana affiliated with Shaikh Ayaz University Shikarpur.

Conference to help..

Continued from page 1

vision. "We have played a full role in the creation of Pakistan and in serving the holy sites, and we will continue to do so," he said. The minister also remarked that racism had almost come to an end following Ajay Banga's appointment as President of the World Bank. He suggested that Ahmad Raza Punjabi and Nasir Dhillon present a charter of demands to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting at the conclusion of the conference so that the ministry could extend support for promotion of the Punjabi language. He also proposed forming a committee comprising Deep Sahiba, Farrukh and other participants to suggest ways in which Radio Pakistan and the ministry's social media platforms could contribute to the promotion of Punjabi.

The minister said he believed that Punjab's heroes were not highlighted and projected in the manner they deserved. He proposed publishing a coffeetable book and distributing it among the Sikh and Punjabi diasporas across the world. Attaullah Tarar also highlighted the role of Bhagat Singh, describing him as one of Punjab's great heroes. He said he was available to extend all possible support, within his capacity, for promoting the Punjabi language and making it part of the academic syllabus.

Regarding visa-related problems faced by Sikh pilgrims, the minister said he would take up the matter with the Foreign Ministry and Federal Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar to resolve the issues. He said , "The Next edition of the conference should be organised in Islamabad.

Fazl's Islamabad..

Continued from page 1

police personnel were deployed along the routes leading to the property. Police also blocked the street leading to the house.

The family was reportedly given 30 minutes to vacate the residence before it was sealed by the magistrate and CDA officials.

Meanwhile, JUI-F spokesperson Aslam Ghauri expressed concern over the action, claiming that women and children at the residence had been harassed and that the family had been pressured to leave within half an hour.

Ghauri said the JUI-F chief was under house arrest in Lahore, while his Islamabad residence had been surrounded by police.

He said the party had postponed protests in Rawalpindi and Islamabad out of respect for the arrival of foreign guests, but accused the government of responding to the party's restraint with provocation.

"We want peace. Why is the government bent on confrontation?" he said, demanding that authorities immediately end the siege of the residence and stop harassing women and children.

Ghauri warned that the government would be responsible for any consequences if the situation escalated.

No one can..

Continued from page 1

ing South Punjab for the past few days and on Friday voiced support for the creation of a separate South Punjab province, while opposing the division of Punjab into four provinces.

Speaking at the foundation-laying ceremony of a Sindh Institute of Urology and Transplantation (SIUT) hospital in Rahim Yar Khan, the PPP chairman underlined that "political differences" should not prevent governments from delivering public services and completing projects initiated by their predecessors.

While recalling the history of political rivalry between his party and the PML-N, Bilawal said governments had repeatedly been removed before completing their terms, resulting in the suspension of development initiatives.

"Projects would be launched by the PPP, but when the PML-N government came into power, those projects would stop. Later, when the PPP returned to government, it would focus on its own projects instead of continuing the previous government's initiatives," he remarked.

He emphasised that this cycle had adversely affected the public, with unfinished projects and growing problems for citizens.

The PPP chairman urged the government to pursue development projects through mutual consultation and consensus, stressing that political unity and respect for democratic mandates were essential to addressing the country's challenges.

Governor's rule in KP imposed due to deteriorating law and order situation: Musadiq

ABBOTTABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Climate Change Musadaq Malik Saturday has said that imposing Governor's Rule in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was a difficult decision, but it became necessary due to the deteriorating law and order situation and rising incidents of terrorism.

Talking to the media during his visit to Abbottabad, the federal minister said that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa had witnessed the highest number of casualties in terrorist incidents.

He said the PTI-led provincial government had failed to take effective measures to counter terrorism and protect the lives of citizens.

Responding to a question about Maulana Fazlur Rehman, Musadaq Malik said he shared a relationship of mutual respect with the JUI-F chief.

He observed that political discourse sometimes became intense, adding that certain remarks made by Maulana Fazlur Rehman should have been avoided.

He stressed that state institutions should not be dragged into political discussions.

The minister said there was a need for a meaningful debate on the creation of new provinces in the country and that the matter should also be discussed in Parliament.

Commenting on the flour shortage in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, he said he would take up the issue with the federal government. He expressed hope that the situation would improve soon through wheat imports.

Amb. Baloch urges students to draw inspiration from Iqbal's teachings

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of Pakistan to Turkiye Amna Baloch, Saturday, encouraged the students to draw inspiration from Iqbal's teachings and uphold his ideals of intellectual development, self-confidence and service to humanity. The Embassy of Pakistan in Ankara, in collaboration with Pakistan Embassy International Study Group (PEISG), organised an event to commemorate Iqbal Day as part of the year-long celebrations marking the 150th birth anniversary of Allama Muhammad Iqbal.

The event was attended by members of the Pakistani, Turkish and wider international community, a press release said.

Ambassador Amna Baloch paid tribute to Allama Iqbal as a distinguished poet, philosopher and thinker whose intellectual contributions continue to inspire generations across the Muslim world.

She highlighted the enduring relevance of his philosophy, particularly Khudi, and its emphasis on self-belief, knowledge, faith and striving for excellence.

She appreciated the efforts of the school's administration, teachers and students in organising the event and noted that such initiatives contribute to strengthening the longstanding cultural and people-to-people ties between Pakistan and Türkiye.

Anwar-ul-Haq announces Rs20m for Shakargarh lawyers' chambers

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Parliamentary Secretary for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan Anwar-ul-Haq Chaudhry has announced Rs20 million for the construction and development of chambers for lawyers at the Shakargarh Bar Council.

In a press statement issued here on Saturday, he made the announcement during a visit to the Shakargarh Bar Council on its invitation where he was received by Bar President Chaudhry Nasir Jameel Gorsi, Secretary Chaudhry Zia Arshad and members of the legal community.

The funds were announced on the request of Muhammad Raza Chaudhry, an advocate and candidate for the post of Bar President, for the construction and development of a block for lawyers' chambers.

Addressing the gathering, Anwar-ul-Haq Chaudhry said the legal community was an educated, responsible and respected segment of society.

He said lawyers played an important role in upholding the supremacy of the Constitution and law, ensuring justice and contributing to social reforms.

He stressed the importance of addressing the issues faced by the legal community and providing better professional facilities to lawyers. The MNA said efforts would continue for the development of Shakargarh and provision of improved facilities to people from all walks of life.

The Bar office-bearers and lawyers present on the occasion thanked Anwar-ul-Haq Chaudhry for announcing the funds.

PM, CDF greet..

Continued from page 1

said we will build on this historic milestone and reach even greater heights.

Shehbaz Sharif also extended his felicitations to Zeeshan Ali for becoming the first Pakistani astronaut to orbit the earth. He also extended his greetings to the Chinese crewmates of Zeeshan Ali.

Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir said Pakistan and its armed forces are proud of Muhammad Zeeshan Ali. He said Zeeshan Ali's presence aboard the Chinese space station is a proud testament to our time-tested strategic cooperative partnership with China, emphasizing that our friendship with China is beyond compare. He said we always say that this relationship is higher than the Himalayas, deeper than the oceans, sweeter than the honey, and now boundless as the universe.

Interacting with the Prime Minister and the Field Marshal, Muhammad Zeeshan Ali said it is a great honour for him to represent Pakistan not only as a first astronaut to orbit the earth but also the first international astronaut to enter the Chinese space station.

Zeeshan Ali said everything is going well and according to the plan, mentioning that he is doing his best to perform his duties and the scientific research as per expectations of the entire nation. He expressed the confidence that the next generation of Pakistani astronauts, engineers and scientists will travel even farther into the space and explore further for the betterment of the humanity.

Earlier, in his opening remarks, the Chairman SUPARCO said Zeeshan Ali will conduct four scientific experiments designed by Pakistani universities. He said Pakistan space program is advancing steadily with the support of the top leadership.

Meanwhile, the Shenzhou-23 and Shenzhou-24 astronauts held an in-orbit handover ceremony aboard China's Tiangong space station today.

According to the China Manned Space Agency, Pakistani astronaut Muhammad Zeeshan Ali will return to Earth with the Shenzhou-23 astronauts Zhang Zhiyuan and Li Jiaying.

Shenzhou-23 astronaut Zhu Yangzhu, who has already spent six months in orbit for a year-long stay experiment, will remain aboard the space station for the Shenzhou-24 mission together with commander Tang Hongbo and astronaut Wu Yi.

The returning astronauts have finished all their scheduled tasks. They are expected to return to the Dongfeng landing site in north China aboard the Shenzhou-23 spacecraft in the coming days, and Zhang will serve as commander of the return mission.

The landing site and all systems involved are busy putting the final touches on preparations to welcome the astronauts home.

Dialogue, not violence, key to peace and progress in Balochistan: Yousafzai

QUETTA (ANN): Balochistan Chief Minister's Special Assistant on Home Affairs Babar Yousafzai has said the people of the province want peace, development and prosperity and believe that their issues should be addressed through dialogue, negotiations and mutual understanding rather than violence.

Addressing a seminar titled "National Dialogue for Peace and Unity" in Quetta, he called on political and social stakeholders to work collectively for lasting peace, economic progress and improved public welfare.

Yousafzai said Pakistan had consistently supported peace, development and human welfare, adding that people in Balochistan also sought stability and peaceful solutions to their concerns through dialogue.

He welcomed the national dialogue initiative, saying such forums could strengthen mutual respect, unity, peace and national cohesion.

Speaking to the youth, Yousafzai urged them to prioritize education, work toward fulfilling their parents' aspirations and avoid being influenced by forces that could divert them from constructive pursuits. He encouraged young people to utilize their abilities positively and contribute to the development of the province.

He said damage to roads, educational institutions and development projects was hampering progress in Balochistan and stressed the need to accelerate development activities, expand employment opportunities and improve the economic conditions of the people.The special assistant also highlighted the importance of expanding trade, imports and exports and creating employment opportunities, saying sustained peace and better transportation infrastructure could provide a stronger foundation for economic growth and public prosperity.

He welcomed the Balochistan Corps Commander's decision concerning the restoration of roads and transportation facilities, describing the initiative as a positive contribution to development.

Yousafzai termed the seminar an important step toward strengthening peace and national unity and called for continued collective efforts and meaningful dialogue to address the province's challenges and support sustainable development.



GWADAR: Additional Chief Secretary (Development) Zahid Saleem and delegation of Provincial Secretaries being briefed by Chairman Gwadar Port Authority Noor ul Haq Baloch about Gwadar Port and Free Zone.



ZIARAT: Student of Al-Harmain School presenting bouquet to Provincial Minister for Commodity Management Department and Chairman Balochistan Food Authority Haji Noor Muhammad Dummar during his visit to Kawas.

Bakht Kakar says:

Equal, timely healthcare for urban, remote areas top priority

QUETTA (ANN): Balochistan Health Minister Bakht Muhammad Kakar has said the provincial government is committed to ensuring equitable access to quality and timely healthcare for people living in both urban centres and remote parts of the province.

Speaking to various delegations, the minister said efforts were underway to improve the performance of government hospitals and basic health units while ensuring that essential medicines and qualified medical staff remained available.

He said particular attention was being given to making district and tehsil-level hospitals fully operational, providing them with modern medical equipment and improving the attendance and availability of doctors and other healthcare professionals.

Bakht Muhammad Kakar said maternal and child healthcare programmes, child nutrition, immunization and primary healthcare services were also being strengthened as part of the broader effort to improve public health delivery.

He further stressed the importance of cleanliness, discipline and respectful treatment of patients at government-run health facilities. The health minister directed the authorities concerned to respond promptly to public complaints and ensure that the benefits of ongoing healthcare reforms and government initiatives reached people across Balochistan, particularly those in underserved areas.

Delays in addressing public grievances will not be tolerated: Zarak

QUETTA (ANN): Balochistan Assembly treasury member Sheikh Zarak Khan Mandokhail has stressed that unnecessary delays and negligence in resolving public grievances will not be accepted, calling for greater attention to basic services and transparent execution of development projects.

Speaking to several public delegations, he said the concerns raised by citizens were being taken seriously and relevant departments were being contacted to address issues concerning clean drinking water, education, road construction and rehabilitation, as well as ongoing development schemes.

Sheikh Zarak Khan Mandokhail said ensuring basic facilities and accelerating development in less-developed areas were important responsibilities of the government. He urged elected representatives to remain in regular contact with the public and take an active role in resolving issues confronting their constituencies.

He also called for transparency in the implementation of development projects and responsible use of public funds, emphasizing that resources allocated for public welfare should be utilized appropriately.

The lawmaker reaffirmed his commitment to maintaining coordination with government institutions to identify public concerns and facilitate their timely resolution, with the objective of improving the delivery of essential services to citizens.



NASEERABAD: Deputy Commissioner Vrinder Lal reviews the QESCO appointment process.

QESCO, WAPDA recruitment to be conducted strictly on merit: DC

Independent Report

JAFFARABAD: Deputy Commissioner Jaffarabad Khalid Khan has directed that recruitment against federally allocated vacancies in QESCO and WAPDA be carried out strictly on merit, with complete transparency maintained throughout the selection process.He said the recruitment drive was aimed at providing fair employment opportunities to deserving, educated and qualified youth of the district, in line with the federal government's initiative to expand employment opportunities for young people in Balochistan.

A designated team, headed by Deputy Commissioner Khalid Khan and supervised by Additional Deputy Commissioner Huzoor Bakhsh Bugti, examined the documents submitted by candidates seeking appointment to various positions. A large number of applicants took part in the recruitment process.

Khalid Khan said young people represented an important national resource and stressed that merit-based recruitment could help secure their future while enabling them to play a meaningful role in regional development and improve institutional performance.

Curbing cheating vital to improving educational standards

Independent Report

BARKHAN: Divisional Director Education Koh-e-Suleman Dr. Muhammad Saleem Zarkoon has stressed that effective measures against cheating are essential for improving the quality of education and preserving the credibility of the examination system.

He made the remarks during an inspection of the annual examination center at Government Model High School Barkhan, where he reviewed examination arrangements, student attendance and the conduct of the ongoing assessments.

DC directs transparent, well-managed QESCO interviews in Quetta

Independent Report

QUETTA: Deputy Commissioner Quetta West Sana Mahjabeen Umrani has directed the authorities concerned to ensure a transparent and orderly interview process for vacant positions in the Quetta Electric Supply Company (QESCO), with adequate facilities provided to all candidates.

She issued the directives while presiding over a meeting with QESCO officials to assess preparations and administrative arrangements for recruitment interviews scheduled to begin on November 28.

The meeting examined the interview process, logistical arrangements, facilities for applicants and other administrative matters linked to the recruitment exercise.

Sana Mahjabeen Umrani instructed the relevant departments and institutions to maintain close coordination and extend mutual cooperation to ensure discipline throughout the process. She also stressed that necessary arrangements should be completed in advance so the interviews could proceed smoothly without disruption.

The deputy commissioner emphasized that candidates should be provided with appropriate facilities and that the recruitment process should be conducted in a transparent and organized manner.



USTA MUHAMMAD: Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Ramzan Palal being briefed about appointment process in QESCO.

Gwadar desalination plant produces one million gallons of drinking water daily

Independent Report

GWADAR: Gwadar Port Authority (GPA) Chairman Noor-ul-Haq Baloch has said the authority's desalination facility is producing one million gallons of potable water every day by treating seawater, providing residents with a reliable and affordable source of drinking water. He made the remarks while briefing a high-level delegation of provincial secretaries led by Additional Chief Secretary Development Zahid Saleem during its visit to the GPA desalination plant on Friday.

Baloch said the treated water met World Health Organization (WHO) standards for total dissolved solids (TDS) and noted that the facility had continued supplying drinking water to the people of Gwadar even during periods of severe water shortage.

Plant In-charge Engineer Gulzar Baloch also briefed the delegation on the facility's production capacity, seawater treatment process, cost of producing water, quality-control measures and distribution system serving different parts of the city. The visiting delegation expressed satisfaction with the plant's operational performance, quality of treated water and affordable supply mechanism. The officials also acknowledged the GPA's role in supporting efforts to address Gwadar's water shortage. The delegation observed that the facility had the capacity to play an important role in dealing with potential water crises in the future and maintaining a sustained supply of potable water for the city's residents. The delegation included Public Health Engineering Secretary Shahzaib Khan, School Education Secretary Lal Jan Jaffar, Agriculture and Cooperatives Secretary Dawood Khan Khilji, Irrigation Secretary Sohail-ur-Rehman Baloch, Health Secretary Mujeeb-ur-Rehman Panezai, Communication and Works, Physical Planning and Housing Secretary Dr. Sajjad Baloch, Deputy Commissioner Gwadar Naqeebullah Kakar.

Free veterinary drive brings vaccination, medicines to Pasni livestock farmers

Independent Report

PASNI: A veterinary outreach campaign has been carried out in Wards 5 and 6 of Pasni to provide livestock farmers with free treatment and preventive services at their doorsteps.

During the campaign, livestock were vaccinated against infectious and epidemic diseases, while farmers were provided medicines without charge.

The drive was conducted under the supervision of District Livestock Officer Gwadar Dr. Sabir Ali, with veterinary teams also holding awareness sessions for livestock owners. Farmers were briefed on proper animal care, balanced feeding practices and measures to prevent the spread of diseases among livestock.

Ormara youth urged to develop leadership, pursue chances

Independent Report

ORMARA: Assistant Commissioner Ormara Dr. Mahnoor Barkat has emphasized the need to empower young people by developing their abilities and creating greater opportunities for their personal, educational and professional growth.

She was addressing a motivational seminar titled "Youth of Ormara: From Shores to Success," organized by the Pakistan Army, where she highlighted the importance of education, determination, positive thinking and self-confidence in achieving success. Dr. Mahnoor Barkat described youth as a vital national resource and urged young participants to channel their skills and energies toward social advancement, national development and the country's prosperity.

She said proper guidance, encouragement and opportunities to develop leadership skills could help young people become responsible and productive members of society.



QUETTA: Master Rafiullah and Khanozai, Muslim Bagh residents address media at Quetta Press Club Press conference.

Coordinated strategy ordered to curb robberies on N-65

Independent Report

SIBI: Commissioner Sibi Division Irfanullah Khan has called for coordinated action among law enforcement agencies to prevent robberies and theft on the N-65 National Highway and ensure the protection of public life and property.

He issued the directives while presiding over a meeting of the Divisional Intelligence Coordination Committee (DICC) held under the National Provincial Action Plan to assess the security and law and order situation across the division.

The meeting reviewed security arrangements along national highways, the prevailing law and order situation, crime prevention efforts and measures to contain illegal activities. Officials and representatives of various law enforcement agencies briefed the commissioner on their performance, ongoing operations and challenges being faced in the field.

Irfanullah Khan stressed the need for timely exchange of intelligence and closer coordination among law enforcement institutions, particularly to improve highway security and prevent criminal activities.

The meeting also approved several measures aimed at strengthening intelligence-sharing mechanisms, enhancing crime prevention and improving security arrangements throughout the division.

Deputy Commissioner Sibi Major (Retd.) Ilyas Kibzai, Additional DIG Police Younus Khajak and representatives of law enforcement agencies attended the meeting. Deputy commissioners, SSPs and representatives of the Anti-Narcotics Force from other districts of the division joined the proceedings through video link.

Officials directed to address public issues without delay

Independent Report

HARNAI: Additional Deputy Commissioner Harnai Muhammad Saleem Tareen has directed district officials to ensure timely resolution of genuine public complaints, stressing that negligence in matters concerning public welfare will not be tolerated.

He was speaking while presiding over a Khuli Kachri (open court) organized by the district administration at the Deputy Commissioner's Office, where a large number of residents and local elders raised issues affecting their daily lives.

Residents brought forward complaints and suggestions concerning electricity supply, drinking water, healthcare, education, sanitation and other essential public services. The additional deputy commissioner heard the concerns and issued immediate instructions to the relevant departmental heads for resolving several of the complaints.

Tareen said addressing legitimate grievances at citizens' doorsteps remained a key priority of the district administration. He directed officials to respond promptly to public concerns and ensure effective implementation of welfare and development initiatives.

FC 14 Wing Commander Lieutenant Colonel Inayatullah, SP Harnai Engineer Abdul Hafeez Jakhrani, Assistant Commissioner Israr Ahmed Shahwani, along with heads and representatives of various district departments, attended the open court.

The participating citizens welcomed the initiative by the district administration and security forces and expressed hope that such forums would contribute to resolving long-standing issues faced by the local population.

Gwadar digital library visit encourages reading, research among female students

Independent Report

GWADAR: Students and faculty members of Government Girls' College Pasni visited the Syed Zahoor Shah Hashmi Digital Public Library in Gwadar as part of an initiative aimed at encouraging reading, research and greater use of modern educational resources among female students. The educational visit was organized in accordance with the provincial government's efforts to strengthen learning opportunities and promote a culture of reading among young people. The delegation was led by College Principal Shehnaz and Professor Shehzad. Library Assistant Nasreen introduced the visitors to different sections of the facility and briefed them on its digital services, reading environment and range of educational resources.

University of Turbat trains 50 students in disaster preparedness

Independent Report

TURBAT: University of Turbat Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Gul Hassan has stressed the importance of developing leadership, social responsibility and humanitarian service among students, assuring institutional support for student clubs and societies working to engage young people in community-oriented activities. He was speaking in connection with a one-day disaster preparedness workshop titled "TAYAR", organized by the Green Youth Movement Club under the university's Directorate of Student Affairs. The training brought together 50 male and female students from different academic departments.

Dr. Gul Hassan said student organizations provided an important link between academic life and broader social responsibilities, adding that universities should equip young people with practical skills alongside academic knowledge.

Resource person Fahad Shabbir delivered sessions on disaster risk reduction, minimizing the impact of emergencies and improving response capabilities.



Technicians conduct CCTV maintenance for enhanced security at Balochistan Assembly Chowk under district administration supervision in Quetta.

BFA seals two Quetta food units, fines seven over safety violations

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Balochistan Food Authority (BFA) has sealed two food-related units and imposed fines on seven establishments during an enforcement operation targeting violations of food safety regulations on Airport Road. The action also led to the seizure of counterfeit stamps from a supermarket, which officials said were allegedly being used to alter manufacturing and expiry dates printed on food products. The crackdown was conducted under the supervision of BFA Director Operations Kashif Zubair, with food safety teams inspecting supermarkets, bakeries, baking units, cafés, restaurants and fast-food outlets.

Officials identified a range of violations, including inadequate sanitation, expired food items, use of non-food-grade colouring agents, improper storage of spoiled chicken alongside fresh products and other unsafe storage practices. A baking unit and the processing section of a café were sealed during the operation.

Corrective notices were issued to several businesses, while legal proceedings were also initiated against three establishments found operating without the mandatory food business licences.



QUETTA: PPP Provincial President Senator Sardar Umer Gorgage presides over the meeting of Provincial Cabinet of PPP.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent
Sunday November 29, 2026

Anti-rape action

The prevalence of rape in Pakistan means it can be a dangerous place for females. Yet, the issue is left out of political agendas. The Punjab government's plan to introduce an anti-rape law, and establish fast-track courts to expedite the trials of violence against women and children cases with a definite timeframe for their disposal, is welcome. The problem, however, is more complex. On one end are patriarchal social structures that condone crimes of power, and on the other, is the absence of official and judicial resolve. Resultantly, the high numbers are a reality check for the government and its claims about preventive actions. As per the provincial police chief, police stations across Punjab logged 1.24m complaints related to females. The Women Virtual Police Station alone recorded nearly 125,000, while 71pc of sexual abuse offenders were known to their victims.

There is no dearth of laws. The state has long failed in carrying out its duty to enforce them, and foster a setting where women's safety matters. The Anti-Rape (Investigation and Trial) Act, 2021 is in place for the speedy investigation and trial of rape and sexual violence cases involving women and children. The Punjab government can adopt its provisions as modern forensic and medico-legal departments, DNA testing, alongside a sensitised police force are important. Meanwhile, victim-blaming, and out-of-court settlements, often attained through coercion, feed rape impunity. The burden of shame is for the perpetrator to bear. For better conviction rates, attitudes must change. Women politicians must play a greater role in raising awareness in conservative areas to ensure offences are reported, penalties known, and laws implemented. Additionally, countrywide training for specialised probes to secure convictions cannot be delayed. Rape scars for life. A pro-survivor response alongside pre-emptive measures should be central to Pakistan's criminal justice policy. When rape happens so frequently, justice is the sole safeguard for women's respect.

Peace prognosis

Dr Raashid Wali

Afghan foreign and domestic policies are a curious mix of tribalism, revanchism and ideological confusion that shun human rights and statecraft in favour of support for terrorist groups based on Afghan soil that pose a clear danger to regional peace. Unfortunately, all attempts at positive engagement with the Afghan Taliban by Pakistan as well as regional countries have been scuttled due to Kabul's lack of willingness to rein in terrorist outfits operating under its benign gaze.

A belief has gained traction amongst the Afghan Taliban that their successful armed struggle against Nato/USA could also be emulated by their ideological comrades like Al Qaeda, IS-K, ETIM, the TTP etc in pursuit of their political objectives. Rooted in medieval notions of tribal honour and revenge, the regime offers a propitious environment for growth of terror networks. The flow of external funds into the Afghan regime's coffers has encouraged the obduracy of the Taliban, which continues channelling these funds to its ideological allies, sustaining the vicious cycle of terrorism and crime. Afghanistan is acting as a generous host for terrorist outfits that use its soil to generate economic rents through narco-trafficking, ransom, and smuggling. These groups are confident that their base of operation and sources of income would remain protected under the Taliban. A mere look at the figures showing the funding of this terror haven by the unsuspecting international community indicates why Taliban-ruled Afghanistan remains a threat.

Since August 2021, donors have confirmed paying $8 billion in humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan through various international organisations, with a further $3.78bn committed and $94 million pled-ged. Billions more were reportedly received by the Taliban regime in direct foreign grants. Western capitals remain the biggest financial contributors to Afghanistan.

The Afghan economy is kept afloat by foreign patronage and narco-trafficking.

Afghanistan imports goods worth around $12bn annually against exports of only $1.7bn, leaving an annual trade deficit of $10.3bn. It is intriguing how the Taliban regime is bridging $10.3bn every year. The answer lies in $17.5bn in foreign grants received since 2021, besides billions of dollars earned through narco-trafficking. It is clear evidence of an economy kept afloat by foreign patronage and narco-trafficking.

But the biggest question is: should such a regime that hosts terrorist groups be kept afloat through the largesse of international donors who might soon feel the heat from violent groups based in Afghanistan? If the international community thinks it can wean the Afghan Taliban away from terrorists, it needs to have a look at Pakistan's 17 sincere attempts through ministers, the national security advisor, special representative, and joint coordination committee interactions, besides internationally mediated parleys in Doha, Istanbul, Riyadh and Urumqi. The reason for Afghan obstinacy is hubris and ideological narcissism that are pampered through foreign indulgence, despite zero concessions by the Kandahar-based ruling clique on political inclusivity, women's education and minority rights. Pakistan has tried bilateral channels and has exhausted relevant regional fora like the trilateral group (Pakistan, China and Afghanistan) where in 2023 the Afghan foreign minister agreed to stop the flow of terrorism from Afghan soil.

The Moscow Format, which evolved out of a quadrilateral forum which was abandoned by the US after the Ukraine War, kept pressing the Afghan regime to abide by international counterterrorism obligations till its seventh meeting. However, it failed to elicit a positive response from the Taliban delegation during its eighth iteration at Mos-cow on Oct 5.

The Taliban's reluctance to even acknowledge the need to stop the ac--tivities of terrorist groups from Afghan soil betrays a mindset that is sympathetic to these violent groups. This should be a clear message to countries like Russia that are giving space to the Taliban regime in pursuit of narrow security goals. The fact is that all development and connectivity goals like TAPI, Casa-1000, and Trans-Afghan Railway, as well as mines and mineral exploration in Afghanistan, would remain a pipe dream till the time the Afghan Taliban stop sponsoring terrorism.

The proceeds from illegal mining go to support the Taliban's military infrastructure. Moreover, since 2021, it has established thousands of madressahs against 269 modern schools, replaced 90,000 teachers with around 100,000 Taliban-aligned clerics, abolished 18 university disciplines, rewritten 200-plus subjects and banned 679 textbooks.

Until the Taliban regime gives up its support for terrorism and provides verifiable guarantees to Pakistan, meaningful normalisation, regional connectivity and lasting stability will not materialise.

Rabies elimination

M. Aftab Gohar

It begins with a fever, a headache and a restlessness that will not settle. Then the patient panics at the sight of water. After days of going from hospital to hospital, the family learns that a dog bite weeks or months earlier, long healed and forgotten, carried rabies. The virus has reached the brain, and there is no cure.

This scene plays out in hospitals across Pakistan every week, yet every such death is preventable. Sindh, where reporting has improved, recorded 285,000 dog bites in 2025 and over 200,000 by September 2026, with at least 41 rabies deaths this year.

The Indus Hospital also saw rabies cases from Balochistan, and eight more came through teleconsultation from across the country. Punjab reported more than 1.3 million dog-bite cases between 2021 and March 2026. Estimates put Pakistan's rabies deaths at 2,000 to 5,000 a year, most of them poor and many of them children.

A study published this year in eBioMedicine, a Lancet journal, which I co-authored with Indus Hospital and Erasmus MC colleagues, shows how widely the virus circulates.

We found rabies virus in 64 of 100 severe dog-bite wounds in Karachi, and two-thirds of the patients were children. It covered only severe bites, so it does not mean two in three biting dogs are rabid, but the warning is stark. If this is the picture in a city with the province's best-equipped bite clinics, it is unlikely to be better elsewhere in Sindh or Pakistan.

Elimination needs action on five fronts. The first is surveillance. Behind every reported case is a grieving family. Much of the recent rise reflects improved surveillance, and the true burden is still hidden.

Many families believe the patient is possessed and turn to a shrine, not a hospital; others die in hospital undiagnosed. Surveillance must keep improving, with human rabies and dog bites notifiable at every level, so that reliable data reveals the true burden and where to focus resources. Swabbing bite wounds can also track the virus without catching dogs.

Vaccine and immunoglobulin must be free at every public facility.

The second is awareness.

Children, especially boys, often tease street dogs and cannot defend themselves when attacked; peaceful coexistence starts with how we treat community dogs. Every household should know to wash a bite wound with soap and running water for 15 minutes, then seek immediate treatment at an anti-rabies centre, since washing reduces the virus but does not remove it.

These messages belong in school curricula, mosques and the media.

The third is correct treatment. Rabies is almost 100 per cent preventable with timely post-exposure prophylaxis, and in our study nearly 96pc of patients developed protective antibodies.

Yet roughly half of the rabies deaths reported at our centres occur in people whose treatment was incomplete or wrongly given. Immunoglobulin remains scarce, and too many patients drop out before finishing the course.

Vaccine and immunoglobulin must be free at every public facility, and every doctor and nurse treating bites must be trained to WHO guidelines. The Sindh government's ongoing rabies campaign deserves credit and, if sustained, can save many lives.

The fourth is mass dog vaccination, because treating people alone will never end rabies. When at least 70pc of dogs are vaccinated year after year, the virus stops circulating. In September 2026, WHO validated Bhutan as the first country in WHO's South-East Asia Region to eliminate dog-transmitted human rabies.

The fifth is effective dog population management. Uncollected garbage feeds street dogs, which is why katchi abadis have the most dogs and the most bites. Views differ on the best methods, but any approach must be hu--mane, gu--i-ded by evidence and international standards, sustained over time, and backed by proper waste management and responsible ownership. Local governments, veterinary services and communities must agree on what works locally and monitor results.

None of this can succeed in isolation. Health, livestock, local government and education departments each hold a piece and must work together under the One Health approach.

The federal health minister's in-principle approval of a National Rabies Prevention and Control Framework in July 2026 offers real hope. With timely notification, sustained funding and clear, measurable targets, it could become the turning point Pakistan has long awaited, with the media and civil society holding every institution to account.

The global goal is zero deaths from dog-transmitted rabies by 2030. Bhutan has shown it can be done. A rabies-free Pakistan is within reach if we act together, and act now.

Taxpayers' burden

M. Younus Dagha

In challenging times, ordinary citizens and businesses may be called upon to shoulder higher tax burdens to meet the unavoidable costs of maintaining a sovereign state. But citizens should not be expected to bear the burden of costs that are largely avoidable.

When debt servicing consumes 125 per cent of the FBR taxes retained by the federal government, 68.5pc of its total revenues, and nearly three times the defence budget, such an extraordinary burden demands closer scrutiny. Is our public debt being managed prudently and efficiently?

In Pakistan, where a large proportion of the population comprises practising Muslims, many people prefer to keep their savings in bank accounts that pay no interest. As a result, nearly 40pc of all bank deposits are held in current accounts, on which banks pay no interest. This gives Pakistani banks access to an exceptionally cheap source of funds, which they invest in government securities at exorbitantly high returns.

According to the State Bank of Pakistan, banks paid an average interest rate of just 5.53pc on their total deposits in September 2026, including current accounts that pay no interest. Yet, in October 2026, the government was borrowing through 12-month treasury bills at 12.79pc — a gross difference of 7.26 percentage points.

Is our public debt being managed prudently and efficiently?

A prudent borrower would certainly have sought to negotiate a much narrower margin, perhaps 1-2 percentage points. Yet our government continues to borrow at substantially higher rates, raising serious questions about the management of public debt. Ultimately, taxpayers are asked to bear the cost of such generosity. The burden falls on petrol and diesel consumers paying the Petroleum Development Levy, as well as investors paying effective income tax rates of 50-60pc.

High returns on relatively low-risk government securities have encouraged banks to attract more low-cost deposits, particularly current accounts. By June 2026, these accounts held Rs15.3 trillion, nearly 40pc of total deposits, up from 37pc a year earlier. SBP confirms that the Rs3.67tn increase in deposits during the first half of 2026 came mainly from current accounts.

While much of Pakistan's productive economy has struggled, bank deposits have tripled from Rs13.35tn in December 2018 to nearly Rs41tn in September 2026. But where has this enormous pool of savings gone? Into new industries, businesses and jobs, or increasingly into high-yield government securities, earning banks substantial returns at taxpayers' expense? According to SBP, commercial banks held Rs40.36tn in government securities in September 2026. Applying the prevailing gross interest-rate differential of 7.26 percentage points to these holdings gives an estimated annualised differential of approximately Rs2.93tn.

If government borrowing rates were limited to 1-2 percentage points above banks' average deposit cost, the estimated annualised gross savings could reach Rs2,100-2,500 billion, subject to debt maturities and repricing. Even part of these savings could ease the lives of millions of households and thousands of struggling entrepreneurs by reducing the Petroleum Development Levy, multiple taxes on energy bills, and high income tax rates on salaries and businesses.Such a policy would also reduce SBP's annual interest earnings by approximately Rs118bn, which would be just a fraction of the overall savings.

What needs to be done? The government should introduce a law that limits the interest paid to commercial banks on government securities to a reasonable 1-2 percentage points above what banks pay their depositors on average. The implementation process should ensure that monetary policy, government borrowing operations and financial stability are not disrupted.

In order to bring transparency into debt management operations, the law should require the Ministry of Finance and SBP to publish quarterly reports showing how much the government borrows from banks and other investors, the interest it pays, and the cost of funds to banks. These reports should also disclose how much the government actually saves through lower borrowing costs.

The potential annual savings of Rs2,100-2,500bn, once realised, should be passed on to taxpayers and businesses that have long borne the burden of excessive taxation, rather than being absorbed by increased government expenditure. The priority should be to reduce the Petroleum Development Levy and General Sales Tax on electricity bills, thereby lowering fuel and transport costs, easing the cost of living and production, and reducing inflationary pressures. The government should also double the annual income-tax exemption threshold from Rs600,000 to Rs1.2 million, providing much-needed relief to salaried individuals and low-income taxpayers.

The government should also restore the Final Tax Regime for exporters, making tax deducted from export proceeds their final income tax liability, even if the rate remains 2pc. This would simplify taxation, eliminate uncertainty and improve the competitiveness of Pakistani exporters by bringing their tax treatment closer to that of competitors in peer economies.

Equally important is the complete abolition of the super tax, which reportedly generates around Rs400-500bn annually, but has become a major deterrent to new investment. The highest effective income tax rate on corporate, business and other incomes should be capped at 35pc, making Pakistan more attractive to investors while leaving greater disposable income available for savings, consumption and investment.

Many such measures could be financed through the proposed annual debt-servicing savings of Rs2,100-2,500bn, provided the government pursues the necessary reforms with determination and ensures that the resulting fiscal space is used to reduce the tax burden rather than expand public expenditure. These measures would provide a much-needed stimulus to economic growth, encourage investment and job creation, and help alleviate poverty, which has become one of the country's most pressing challenges.Reviving economic growth requires reducing the excessive tax burden on ordinary citizens and businesses — a burden that stifles investment, discourages enterprise and holds back economic activity.

CM Murad says:
Sindh police to regain national sporting glory

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Saturday attended the closing ceremony of Sindh Police Games 2026 as Chief Guest, marking the successful conclusion of a major sporting event that brought together more than 1,500 police officers and personnel from almost every district of the province to showcase their athletic abilities, promote physical fitness, strengthen inter-district unity and revive the rich sporting traditions of Sindh Police. The ceremony, held in the presence of Home Minister Ziaul Hassan Lanjar, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Sindh, senior police officers, officials of the Sindh Police Sports Board and distinguished guests, celebrated the achievements of participating contingents and reaffirmed the department's commitment to developing a sustainable sports culture, discipline, teamwork and healthy competition within the force. The event commenced with the assembly of contingents. The proceedings included recitation from the Holy Quran and the national anthem performed by the Sindh Police Band. A video montage highlighting the major moments and achievements of Sindh Police Games 2026 was also screened, followed by the thrilling final of the tug-of-war competition.

In his address, Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah congratulated the winning athletes and appreciated all participants for demonstrating commitment, hard work and true sportsmanship. He particularly acknowledged the participation of more than 1,500 officers and personnel from almost every district of Sindh, describing it as a reflection of unity, solidarity and collective strength within the police force.

The Chief Minister said that the real spirit of sports was not limited to winning medals but also lay in participation, perseverance, discipline and continuous improvement. He encouraged athletes to remain determined, set higher goals and never lose hope in the face of setbacks.

Highlighting the historic sporting legacy of Sindh Police, the Chief Minister appreciated the efforts of IGP Sindh and Chairman Sindh Police Sports Board Syed Pir Muhammad Shah for reviving sports activities and establishing a renewed sporting culture.



DERA ISMAIL KHAN: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi inaugurating restoration of water supply to the Chashma Right Bank Canal (CRBC) and announced relief measures for farmers and villages affected by the canal breach.

Governor Kundi announces relief for CRBC-affected farmers in DIK

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi on Saturday inaugurated the restoration of water supply to the Chashma Right Bank Canal (CRBC) and announced relief measures for farmers and villages affected by the canal breach.

Addressing farmers at the inauguration ceremony in Chashma, the governor said the restoration of canal water had brought an end to a longstanding problem faced by local growers, whose livelihoods largely depended on irrigation through the CRBC.

He appreciated the contractor for completing the restoration work ahead of schedule and announced that irrigation taxes for the period during which canal water remained unavailable would be waived.

He also announced a special relief package for villages affected by the canal breach, saying the government would extend all possible support to the affected communities.

Governor Kundi said the tender for the Chashma Lift Canal project would be opened at WAPDA House in Lahore on Monday, while its groundbreaking ceremony would be held within a month.

He said the project would help overcome the region's wheat shortage and strengthen its agricultural sector.

The governor also announced that the Paniala Interchange on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) would be inaugurated soon, adding that ongoing development projects in the region would continue without interruption.

He said electric buses would be introduced in Dera Ismail Khan, while an eye hospital would also be inaugurated soon.

Emphasizing the importance of public healthcare and sanitation, he said no compromise would be made on these essential services and announced an increase in doctors' salaries.

He further announced an increase in the compensation package for police personnel who embraced martyrdom in the line of duty, adding that police salaries would be brought at par with those in other provinces.

A solar power system was being installed for the police department at a cost of Rs1.5 billion.

Talagang gets district status, Rs2bn package

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has formally declared Talagang a district, announcing a special development package of Rs2 billion and directing the immediate appointment of a deputy commissioner (DC) and district police officer (DPO) to strengthen administrative and law enforcement arrangements.

Addressing a large public gathering at Talagang's main bazaar during her visit, the chief minister also announced the construction of several dams, including the Lawa-Tamman Dam, and inaugurated various road infrastructure, public transport and urban beautification projects, said a handout issued here on Saturday.

Conveying greetings from Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President Nawaz Sharif, Maryam Nawaz thanked the people of Talagang and the local business community for giving her a warm welcome. She said the large public turnout in the town's markets reflected people's confidence in her government's performance and development initiatives. "Seeing the sea of people in Talagang's bazaar has convinced me that your sister and daughter is working in the right direction," she said, adding that bus services had been introduced while markets and roads were being developed to improve public facilities.

The chief minister said previous governments had repeatedly made promises to grant Talagang the status of a district but failed to fulfil their commitments. She remarked that those who had made false promises had become part of history.

Highlighting the ongoing infrastructure development, she said the completion and expansion of 300 kilometres of roads had transformed the area, expressing confidence that the pace of development in Talagang would further accelerate over the next two years.

Earlier, the chief minister inaugurated the beautification project of Talagang's main bazaar, the town's first electric bus service and several road infrastructure schemes aimed at improving connectivity and facilitating residents.



RAHIM YAR KHAN: Chief Minister Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah is addressing the ceremony of SIUT Hospital in Rahim Yar Khan.

Sindh Assembly will never accept division of Sindh: Sharjeel Memon

KARACHI (INP): Senior Sindh Minister Sharjeel Memon said the Sindh Assembly had repeatedly declared that it would not accept the division of Sindh and would continue to say so until its dying breath.

Speaking in the Sindh Assembly, Memon said the Assembly had to make the decision and that the Sindh Assembly had already given its final verdict. He said people in Punjab were saying the same thing as those in Sindh: if the Punjab Assembly says it does not accept provinces, then neither do we. He reiterated that the Sindh Assembly had repeatedly rejected the division of Sindh and would continue to do so until its dying breath.

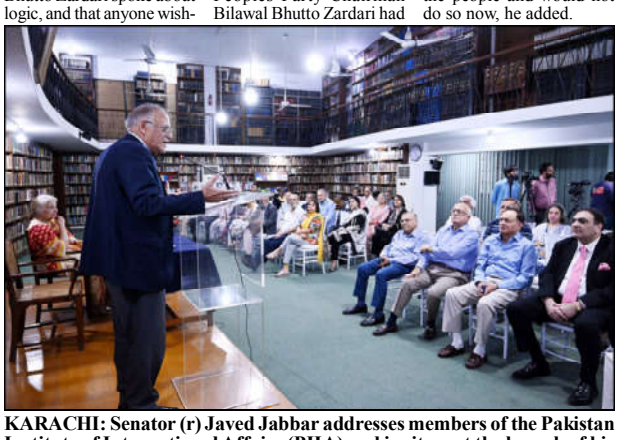
He said Bilawal Bhutto Zardari spoke about logic, and that anyone wishing to debate the matter should do so in Parliament, not on the streets or in talk shows. The decision had to be made by Parliament, he said, adding that laws were not made on the streets or in talk shows.

The senior minister said people from across Pakistan came to Sindh for medical treatment. He claimed that the Sindh government was building the largest residential project in world history. He also blamed the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) and its founder for Karachi's destruction, saying that if they had genuinely served the city, they would not have come to power through the back door.

Earlier, Pakistan Peoples Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari had said he was not in favour of dividing Punjab into four parts and supported creating a province only in South Punjab.

Addressing a gathering in Rahim Yar Khan, Bilawal said everyone was being urged to understand that this was not a time for political revenge but for resolving the people's problems.

He said he did not support dividing Punjab into four parts and backed a province only for South Punjab because the Punjab Assembly had passed a resolution on the matter. He said the people of South Punjab believed in democracy and would achieve provincial status through democratic struggle. The PPP had never abandoned the people and would not do so now, he added.



KARACHI: Senator (r) Javed Jabbar addresses members of the Pakistan Institute of International Affairs (PIIA) and invitees at the launch of his book, A Voice in the Senate: Speeches in Parliament 1985–1991, at the Institute's library.



Sindh Minister for Information, Transport and Mass Transit, Sharjeel Inam Memon addresses Sindh Assembly Session in Karachi.

Labour Minister directs strict enforcement of occupational safety laws across Punjab

LAHORE (APP): The Punjab Labour Department on Saturday intensified its province-wide inspection campaign to ensure workers' safety and enforce occupational health and safety laws in industrial and commercial establishments, conducting 565 inspection visits during the current week.

The campaign has been launched on the directions of Provincial Minister for Labour and Human Resource Muhammad Manshaullah Butt to identify workplace hazards, improve safety arrangements and ensure effective implementation of the Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Act 2019.

According to the Labour Department,special inspection teams visited industrial and commercial establishments in various districts of the province to assess workplace safety standards and identify potential risks that could endanger workers' lives and health. During the inspections, management and staff were also sensitized about occupational health and safety requirements, precautionary measures and the importance of maintaining a safe and healthy working environment.

Warning and advisory notices were being issued to establishments wherever deficiencies in safety arrangements are identified.

District-wise data showed that Lahore recorded the highest number of inspections with 119 visits, followed by Faisalabad with 93, Rawalpindi 47, Multan 46, Gujranwala 44, Sialkot 42, Bahawalpur 39, Sargodha 38, Gujrat 34, Dera Ghazi Khan 33 and Sahiwal 31.

Speaking about the initiative, Provincial Minister Muhammad Manshaullah Butt said the primary objective of the campaign was to identify potential workplace hazards in a timely manner and ensure the adoption of necessary safety measures to protect workers. He said the inspection process across industrial and commercial establishments throughout the province.

KP health advisor vows to resolve problems of physiotherapists, PWDs

PESHAWAR (APP): Advisor to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor on Health, Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Nigar Johar Khan Saturday said that challenges faced by both physiotherapists and persons with disabilities (PWDs) in province would be addressed on a priority basis.

She expressed these views while chairing a meeting with a delegation of Pakistan Physical Therapy Association (PPTA), KP Chapter, led by President PPTA KPK Dr. Pirzada Khattak, Vice President PPTA Dr. Ubaidullah, and Information Secretary PPTA Dr. Babar Wardak. The meeting was held at Lady Reading Hospital.

The meeting was briefed about longstanding systemic issues pertaining to rehabilitation services and welfare of PWDs in province. PPTA demanded expanding patient care, and establishment of an independent Physical Therapy Council to regulate professional standards.

PPTA representatives also demanded creation of dedicated physiotherapist posts at District Headquarters (DHQ), Tehsil Headquarters (THQ), and Rural Health Centre (RHC) levels, as well as formulation of a comprehensive service structure for public sector practitioners.

Furthermore, the delegation urged provincial government to regularize contract based district physiotherapists, enforce registration and regulation of private physiotherapy clinics, and introduce paid house job opportunities for Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) graduates. Health Advisor assured the delegation that all possible measures would be taken .

CM departs to attend Nobel Sustainability Trust Festival

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif on Saturday departed to Hong Kong on an official visit to attend the Nobel Sustainability Trust Festival on November 30.

She has been invited by Nobel Sustainability Trust Chairman Peter Nobel in recognition of the Punjab government's initiatives for environmental protection and sustainability.

The trust has appreciated Punjab's efforts to improve air quality within a record period and acknowledged its comprehensive measures for the protection of forests and wildlife. The invitation recognizes the provincial government's initiatives to address environmental challenges and promote sustainable development.

The Nobel Sustainability Trust, managed by the Nobel family,

Indian Sikh pilgrims complete religious rituals, pilgrimage at Gurdwara Darbar Sahib

ISLAMABAD (INP): Indian Sikh pilgrims who arrived in Pakistan through Wagah Border have completed their religious rituals and pilgrimage at Gurdwara Darbar Sahib, Kartarpur. The pilgrims will return to Lahore today, where they will stay at Gurdwara Dera Sahib,said in a Press issued here on Saturday. Chairman of Evacuee Trust Property Board (ETPB), Qamar-uz-Zaman, said that the relevant district administrations, in coordination with ETPB, re actively providing services and hospitality to Sikh pilgrims. He added that the satisfaction and happiness expressed by pilgrims arriving from India and other countries over the arrangements made in Pakistan is a matter of pride for the Government of Pakistan. ETPB Secretary Nasir Mushtaq said that district administrations are independently overseeing security and administrative arrangements within their respective jurisdictions, while ETPB officers, teams and security personnel are continuously accompanying the pilgrims and providing them with every possible facility, guidance and assistance. He further stated that ETPB teams have remained actively engaged in serving the pilgrims from their reception at Wagah Border, throughout their religious ceremonies, visits to various sacred sites and accommodation arrangements, and will continue to assist them until their departure for India through Wagah Border on December 1. Indian Jatha Leader Bibi Parminder Kaur said that the love, brotherhood and wonderful hospitality extended to them in Pakistan had made their visit truly memorable. She expressed gratitude to the Government of Pakistan and the Evacuee Trust Property Board, adding that the pilgrims would return with beautiful memories and share their pleasant experiences.



LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Health Khawaja Salman Rafique leading the awareness walk organized by University of Health Sciences.

210 couples tie the knot under Dhee Rani Program' in Muzaffargarh

MUZAFFARGARH (APP): A mass wedding ceremony of 210 couples was held at Sports Ground Multan Road, Muzaffargarh, under the Dhee Rani Programme 2026-27, aimed at supporting underprivileged families and ensuring dignified weddings for their daughters.

Provincial Minister for Social Welfare and Bait-ul-Maal Sohail Shaukat Butt attended the ceremony as the chief guest. Commissioner Dera Ghazi Khan Ashfaq Ahmed Chaudhry, Deputy Commissioner Muzaffargarh Usman Tahir Jappa, MPA Sardar Ajmal Khan Chandia and Deputy Director Social Welfare and Bait-ul-Maal Chaudhry Azhar Yousaf were also present, along with officials from relevant departments and other dignitaries.

The ceremony included 210 couples, among them three minority couples and one couple with a person with a disability.

Under the programme, each bride was provided with a financial gift of Rs200,000 through an ATM card, along with bridal dresses, on the directions of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif. The initiative aims to ease the financial burden on deserving families and help their daughters begin their married lives with dignity.

Addressing the ceremony, Provincial Minister Sohail Shaukat Butt said the Dhee Rani Programme reflected the Chief Minister's commitment to public welfare and support for deserving families. He said the programme was not merely an arrangement for collective weddings but also a practical demonstration of the government's commitment to social protection and the dignity of daughters.

He added that the Punjab government was taking practical measures to reduce the financial difficulties faced by parents and facilitate the marriages of their daughters in a dignified manner.

Commissioner Ashfaq Ahmed Chaudhry described the initiative as a commendable welfare measure, saying it provided financial assistance and government support to deserving families at an important stage of their daughters' lives. He said collective wedding ceremonies helped reduce the financial burden on parents and enabled them to send off their daughters with dignity.

Air pollution in Lahore soars to 330 on air quality index

LAHORE (INP): The air pollution reached to dangerous level in Lahore on Saturday as the Air Quality Index (AQI) reading of the city soared to 330 on Saturday.

The citizens have been advised to use masks outside of homes as the city's air has been declared extremely hazardous and unhealthy. The weather will remain cold and dry with no chance of rainfall as the minimum temperature has been recorded 11 Celsius in Lahore today. The Met Office has forecast maximum temperature could soar to 26 degree Centigrade.

The air pollution and smog haunts Punjab with the onset of winter. In previous years authorities made desperate efforts to contain smog in cities. The province grappled with severe air pollution, which soared to alarming levels, causing serious public health issues. For days, Lahore was enveloped by smog, a mix of fog and pollutants, caused by low-grade diesel fumes, smoke from seasonal agricultural burning, automobiles and industries, as temperatures drop with cooling air. Air pollution level in Lahore once soared to more than 80 times of the level deemed hygienic by the World.



SARGODHA: Ex PML (N) MNA Ch Hamid Hameed addressing in a seminar on Human Rights organized by international Human Rights Movement at Sargodha arts Council.

Punjab bans school trips and study tours over 50 kilometres

LAHORE (INP): The Punjab School Education Department has banned school trips and study tours more than 50 kilometres away for all public and private schools across the province, citing student safety, transport safety and concerns about winter smog and fog. An official notification has also been issued.

According to media reports, the notification says the ban applies equally to public and private educational institutions throughout Punjab. Under the new directions, schools may arrange recreational or study trips only within their respective district or within a maximum radius of 50 kilometres. Trips beyond that limit are not permitted.

Education department officials said chief executive officers of the district education authorities have been instructed to ensure strict compliance. Action will be taken against the officials concerned and school heads in cases of negligence or violation. The decision follows traffic accidents during school trips and concerns over transport safety, as well as increasing winter smog and fog.

In recent months, accidents and fire incidents involving vehicles carrying students have raised serious questions about the condition of vehicles used for long-distance trips and the safety measures in place. With the onset of winter, reduced visibility caused by smog and fog, along with rising air pollution.

Pak, China discuss research cooperation to boost exports to $100bn by 2035

BEIJING (APP): Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Saturday discussed research cooperation with China to develop a practical roadmap for increasing Pakistan's annual exports to over $100 billion by 2035.

During a meeting with Lu Hao, President of the Development Research Center (DRC) of China's State Council, the minister discussed a proposed joint research project between the DRC and the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) to draw lessons from China's economic experience and identify ways to enhance Pakistan's export potential.

Ahsan Iqbal said Pakistan's path to economic sovereignty lay through exports, stressing that the country's development journey could be disrupted whenever import expenditure grew faster than foreign exchange earnings, resulting in pressure on foreign exchange reserves.

He said exports constituted the first of the five pillars of URAAN Pakistan, adding that his discussions with the Chinese leadership had focused on exploring ways to help Pakistani manufacturers and farmers increase their products' sales in international markets with China's cooperation.

The proposed joint research initiative aims to provide practical guidance to Pakistani exporters on identifying markets where the country's products could increase their market share and the measures required to achieve that objective.

The minister emphasised that securing the confidence of overseas buyers and establishing long-term business relationships through repeat orders would help create employment opportunities in Pakistan and generate foreign exchange.

He said stronger export earnings would enable the country to pursue its development priorities with greater reliance on its own resources.

Expressing his impressions of the meeting, Ahsan Iqbal said he was deeply impressed by Lu Hao's intellectual insight and the sincerity and warmth with which he spoke about Pakistan, describing him as a true friend of the country.



Islamabad: Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar chairing a meeting of the steering committee on wheat import for the year 2026-27, at the ministry of Foreign Affairs.



RAWALPINDI: Federal Minister for Railways Muhammad Hanif Abbasi chaired an important meeting reviewing freight operations, restoration of high-capacity wagons by mid-February 2027, improvement of railway infrastructure and signalling systems, and measures to enhance operational efficiency. Pakistan Railways remains committed to achieving its Rs. 160 billion revenue target for FY 2026-27.

ICCI hosts Vietnamese business delegation to explore avenues for bilateral cooperation

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Mohammad Zikria Akbar Zia, has called for stronger economic and trade relations between Pakistan and Vietnam, proposing a Free Trade Agreement (FTA), improved direct connectivity, enhanced business-to-business (B2B) linkages and joint ventures to unlock the considerable trade and investment potential of both countries. He stressed that better direct air connectivity between Pakistan and Vietnam would facilitate business travel, strengthen commercial engagement and provide fresh momentum to bilateral trade and investment.

Welcoming a nine-member Vietnamese business delegation led by Ms. Le Thi Minh Tan, Chairwoman of Vietnam–Pakistan Investment and Trading Company, at ICCI on Saturday, he stressed that both countries should work towards a more balanced trade relationship and raise bilateral trade to billions of dollars, said a release issued here saturday.

He said a Pakistan–Vietnam FTA could provide an effective framework for reducing trade barriers, identifying complementary products and encouraging joint ventures and direct business partnerships, said a release issued here on Saturday.

Highlighting Pakistan's agricultural and industrial potential, the ICCI President said Pakistan could offer attractive opportunities to Vietnamese importers in beef, chicken, seafood, salt and other agricultural products. He also invited Vietnamese companies to explore partnerships in food processing, value addition and technology transfer, noting that Vietnamese expertise could help Pakistan enhance its processing capabilities and meet international quality standards.

He emphasised that closer cooperation between the private sectors of both countries could translate untapped opportunities into sustainable commercial partnerships.

Speaking on the occasion, Ms. Le Thi Minh Tan said around 30 Vietnamese business representatives had participated in the Karachi Food and Agriculture Exhibition to explore trade and investment opportunities with Pakistan, where six MoUs had been signed, including four relating to seafood trade.

Pak-China cooperation creates opportunities in specialised fields from manufacturing to TBMs

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan-China cooperation could create opportunities in specialised construction equipment, precision engineering and technical training.

However, meaningful technology transfer requires more than importing machinery. It also demands investment in local skills, research institutions and industrial supply chains, according to a Gwadar Pro's report on Saturday.

Few decades ago, China relied heavily on foreign manufacturers for advanced tunnel boring machines (TBMs) used in major infrastructure projects.

Today, Chinese companies supply these machines to infrastructure projects across the world.

This transformation was driven by decades of research, engineering, technology acquisition and industrial investment, gradually building China's capacity to design and manufacture sophisticated tunnelling equipment.

A TBM is far more than a giant drilling machine. It combines mechanical engineering, hydraulics, electronics, automation and precision manufacturing.

Its cutterhead excavates through different geological conditions, while advanced systems monitor pressure and maintain ground stability. Manufacturing one requires expertise across multiple industries and a sophisticated supply chain.

Although China's TBM research dates back to the 1950s, the country continued to rely on international manufacturers, particularly from Germany and Japan, for advanced equipment and technical expertise during the 1990s.

A major push towards independent development came in 2001, when TBM research received support under China's National High-Tech Research and Development Programme, known as the 863 Programme. China Railway Group assembled a team of engineers to develop domestic shield tunnelling technology. China's largest-diameter single-shield tunnel boring machine for railway construction launched in August 2026.

Gold prices decline by Rs2,300 per tola

ISLAMABAD (APP): The prices of gold witnessed a decline in the local market on Saturday, with the price of 24-karat gold per tola falling by Rs2,300 to settle at Rs387,836, according to rates issued by the All Pakistan Sarafa Gems and Jewellers Association. Similarly, the price of 10 grams of 24-karat gold decreased by Rs1,972 to Rs332,506, while 10 grams of 22-karat gold declined by Rs1,807 to Rs304,808.

In the international market, the price of gold fell by $23 to $3,653 per ounce, the association reported.

Meanwhile, the price of silver per tola decreased by Rs55 to Rs4,851, while the price of 10 grams of silver declined by Rs48 to Rs4,158.

The price of silver in the international market also decreased by $0.55 to $43.73 per ounce, the association added.

CM Murad invites Dawoodi Bohra business community to invest in Sindh

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has invited the Dawoodi Bohra business community to expand its investment in Sindh, establish new industrial ventures and forge partnerships with local entrepreneurs, assuring them of his government's full support in addressing genuine business concerns and creating a conducive environment for investment.

Addressing the Dawoodi Bohra Business Summit, titled Exploring Opportunities, at An Nadi al Burhani on Saturday, the chief minister said the Bohra community had been a longstanding partner in Sindh's economic development, making significant contributions to trade, commerce, manufacturing and philanthropy in Karachi and other parts of the province.

He said the community's traditions of integrity, hard work, entrepreneurship and social responsibility represented the values that the provincial government wanted to promote in Sindh.

"We want to benefit not only from your investment but also from your experience, expertise, international connections and entrepreneurial spirit," he said, urging the business community to consider Sindh a destination for building its next generation of enterprises.

The chief minister was warmly received on his arrival at An Nadi al Burhani by Provincial Minister Jam Ikramullah Dharejo, Special Assistant on Investment and Public-Private Partnership Syed Qassim Naveed Qamar, Mayor Karachi Murtaza Wahab and leaders of the Dawoodi Bohra community.

Highlighting Sindh's strategic economic position, CM Murad Ali Shah said Karachi, as Pakistan's commercial and financial hub, along with its two major ports, extensive industrial infrastructure, large consumer market and rich agricultural and mineral resources, offered tremendous opportunities for investors.

He identified manufacturing, textiles, food processing, pharmaceuticals, engineering, logistics, information technology, construction materials and renewable energy as key sectors with considerable investment potential.

The chief minister particularly highlighted the opportunities available in the province's Special Economic Zones, including Dhabeji, Khairpur and Bin Qasim. He said Dhabeji, owing to its strategic location and connectivity with Port Qasim, had the potential to emerge as a major industrial and economic centre.

"Our objective is to attract investment that translates into factories, production, exports, employment and sustainable economic growth," he said.

Acknowledging that investors needed policy consistency, ease of doing business and confidence in the protection of their investments, the chief minister said his government was improving the business environment through investment facilitation, infrastructure development and Single Window arrangements.He identified manufacturing, textiles, food processing, pharmaceuticals, engineering, logistics, information technology, construction materials and renewable energy as key sectors with considerable investment potential.



Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah attends Dawoodi Bohra business summit in Karachi.

Nadeem Siddiqui says:

Aligning with human rights, green standards essential for business competitiveness

HYDERABAD (APP): President Hyderabad Chamber of Small Traders & Small Industry, Nadeem Ahmed Siddiqui, has stated that, in view of the rapidly evolving requirements of global trade, it is imperative for Pakistani businesses, particularly Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs and MSMEs), to align themselves with international standards. The protection of human rights, labour rights, compliance with environmental responsibilities and transparency across supply chains have become essential requirements of international trade. Therefore, raising awareness and providing appropriate training to the business community on these matters is of utmost importance.

He expressed these views while delivering his welcome address at a specialized awareness and training session titled "CSDDD Readiness: Foundations and Practical Steps," held at the Hyderabad Chamber Secretariat on Saturday under the European Union-funded programme Huqooq-e-Pakistan-II, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Trust for Democratic Education and Accountability (TDEA).

During the training session, TDEA Functional Lead Adnan Anjum, Consultant Muhammad Tauseef Zaman and Team Lead Salahuddin Safdar delivered detailed presentations as the principal speakers and presenters, explaining the fundamental concepts of CSDDD, its implications for international trade and its significance for Pakistani businesses. They informed participants that, under the emerging EU requirements, businesses are increasingly required to identify, prevent and effectively monitor potential risks relating to human rights, workers' protection, environmental responsibilities and supply chains.

The training programme covered seven key areas, including international principles of human rights and business responsibilities, development of Due Diligence policies, identification of human rights risks, compliance with environmental laws and regulations, effective supply chain monitoring, grievance and redressal mechanisms, and gender equality, inclusion and the rights of women workers. Participants were also briefed on Pakistan's National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights (NAP-BHR), the fundamental International Labour Organization (ILO) conventions and relevant Pakistani laws.

UNDP representative Rida Zehra Rizvi highlighted the organisation's initiatives for promoting human rights and responsible business practices, with particular emphasis on the Gender Responsive Business and Human Rights Toolkit.

DPM directs timely import of agreed quantity of wheat

ISLAMABAD (INP): Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar has highlighted that safeguarding the availability and affordability of essential food commodities remains a top priority of the government.

He was chairing a meeting of the Steering Committee on Wheat Import for the year 2026-27 in Islamabad today.

The Committee reviewed the progress of ongoing procurement arrangements, including the import of up to 1.5 million metric tonnes of wheat, following endorsement by the ECC and approval by the Federal Cabinet.

The domestic market dynamics and strategic buffer requirements were also evaluated to maintain an adequate national wheat reserve.

The Deputy Prime Minister directed the relevant authorities to initiate the import process for the already agreed-upon quantity of wheat without delay, ensuring wheat availability across all provinces at reasonable prices, and noted that further imports would be considered should the need arise. He emphasised the importance of swift execution, seamless logistics and close inter-ministerial coordination so that domestic supply chains remain well-stocked without market disruption.

EU Envoys pledge coordinated engagement with Pakistan on trade and regional security

ISLAMABAD (APP): The heads of mission from all 27 European Union member states have reaffirmed their shared commitment to strengthening EU–Pakistan relations, focusing on trade preferences, security, migration, human rights and development cooperation during a diplomatic retreat in Islamabad.

Romanian Ambassador to Pakistan Dan Stoenescu shared the development in a post on X and Facebook, highlighting the importance of European unity and coordinated engagement with Pakistan.

The retreat began on Saturday at the Irish Ambassador's Residence in Islamabad, bringing together EU Heads of Mission for strategic discussions on bilateral relations, common priorities and future cooperation with Pakistan.

Ambassador Stoenescu said all 27 EU member states maintained a common European position on key areas, including the Generalised Scheme of Preferences Plus (GSP+), security, migration and human rights.

He added that European countries were equally aligned in their political dialogue with Pakistan, strategic communication, humanitarian assistance and development cooperation, while bringing their individual national perspectives to collective discussions. Describing the approach as a reflection of Europe's principle of "united in diversity", the Romanian envoy emphasised that member states worked together to advance shared priorities and present a coordinated European position.

The ambassador also expressed appreciation to Ireland's Ambassador Mary O'Neill and EU Ambassador Raimundas Karoblis for organising the gathering and facilitating strategic discussions among European diplomatic missions.



GILGIT: Local women take keen interest in indigenous natural products and purchase locally manufactured organic oils and other traditional items during an exhibition in Gilgit, promoting local entrepreneurship and women-led businesses.

EU announces support for strengthening PEDO's capacity

PESHAWAR (APP): European Union (EU) has reaffirmed its commitment to supporting the energy sector in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, offering financial assistance to address policy, management and institutional challenges faced by the Pakhtunkhwa Energy Development Organization (PEDO).

This commitment was expressed during a meeting between Secretary Energy & Power, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Muhammad Zubair, and a European Union delegation led by Mr. Erik Van, Team Leader and EU Consultant, along with Manuel Nove, Hydropower Expert. Senior officials of the Energy & Power Department and PEDO also attended the meeting.

During the meeting, the EU delegation was briefed in detail about ongoing energy initiatives, institutional challenges and the progress of various hydropower projects across the province.

The EU delegation assured the Secretary Energy & Power of its full cooperation in addressing the challenges confronting ongoing energy projects, particularly those being implemented in remote and underdeveloped areas of the province. The delegation also expressed its willingness to extend technical and financial assistance to facilitate institutional reforms and improve project implementation. Speaking on the occasion, Secretary Energy & Power, Mr. Muhammad Zubair, appreciated the European Union's continued commitment and cooperation in the development of the energy sector in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He expressed confidence that the proposed financial and technical assistance would play a significant role.



BEIJING: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and special initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal met Chinese Vice Minister of Commerce Mr. Yan Dong to discuss accelerating the establishment of Special Economic zones under CPEC and increasing Pakistan's export to China.

Myanmar military airstrike on village school kills at least 30 people, opposition says

Monitoring Desk

MAGWAY REGION: A Myanmar military airstrike on a school in a rebel-controlled village in central Magway Region has killed at least 30 people, including an infant and several schoolchildren, a local witness and a spokesperson with the opposition National Unity Government on Saturday.

The airstrike on Thursday came a week after the International Court of Justice ruled that Myanmar had committed genocide against the Rohingya minority in 2017.

The strike hit a school and monastery compound in Sinbaungwe Township around 3 p.m. local time on Thursday during a religious ceremony, according to a joint statement by the NUG and the interim Magway Federal Unit Government, a rebel local authority aligned with opposition forces

Four 500-pound aerial bombs, 12 artillery shells, and seven suicide drones were deployed, the statement said

NUG spokesperson Nay Phone Latt and a local witness confirmed that more than 20 civilians, including women and children, were killed in the airstrike and artillery attacks alongside nine rebel fighters

The local witness said there were no active clashes in the area at the time of the bombing, and added that rebel fighters only occasionally passed through the village

Pro-military channels on Telegram claimed the airstrike targeted a graduation ceremony and gathering for rebel forces, but military had not yet issued an official statement by Saturday afternoon

The Myanmar government also did not immediately respond to a request for comment

According to records kept by the NUG, the military launched 15,327 airstrikes in 6,653 separate incidents between February 1, 2021 and late October 2026, resulting in 6,467 civilian deaths and damaging 562 schools and 848 religious buildings

The NUG and the local interim authorities condemned what they described as an unprovoked attack, saying it was a war crime and a breach of the Geneva Convention

Their statement said they are collecting evidence for future international legal proceedings



Afghan schoolchildren and other victims injured in an explosion receive medical treatment at a hospital in Asadabad, in Afghanistan's Kunar province.



Russian President Vladimir Putin speaks during a naval flag-raising ceremony for the commissioning of the nuclear-powered submarine Perm in the northern Russian city of Severodvinsk.

Seven killed in Israeli strikes across Gaza as Hamas reports attack on chief's son

Monitoring Desk

GAZA: Hamas has accused Israel of attempting to assassinate the youngest surviving son of its political bureau chief, Khalil al-Hayya, in an overnight strike on a residential apartment in Gaza City, with a security source telling AFP that he and his family survived the attack.

The incident comes amid a fresh wave of Israeli strikes targeting Hamas figures across the war-ravaged Palestinian territory, despite a ceasefire that took effect in October 2025.

Separately, Gaza's civil defence agency said Israeli attacks killed seven Palestinians across the territory on Friday.

Izz al-Din al-Hayya, the youngest surviving son of the Hamas chief, escaped the strike along with his family and the family of his late brother Azzam, a Gaza security source told AFP.

The attack targeted a residential apartment in the Rimal neighbourhood, west of Gaza City, the source said. Bassem Naim, a member of Hamas's political bureau, described the attempted targeting as "state terrorism", while the movement condemned it as "cowardly".

Asked about the incident, the Israeli military said it was looking into the matter.

Four of Khalil al-Hayya's sons have previously been killed in Israeli attacks, including one in May and another in an Israeli strike targeting Hamas leaders in Doha in September 2025. Two others were killed before the Gaza war, which erupted following Hamas's October 7, 2023 attack on Israel. Gaza's civil defence agency said an Israeli drone strike west of Rafah in southern Gaza killed three people on Friday.

Afghanistan school blast kills 10 students, injures more than 110

Monitoring Desk

KUNAR, Kabul: At least 10 people have been killed and more than 110 injured after an explosion near a school in Afghanistan's northeastern Kunar province, a Taliban spokesman says.

Preliminary investigations show that the blast happened at a storage depot holding explosives belonging to mining companies.

The deadly incident was the result of negligence and a lack of safety precautions, initial reports found, according to the spokesman.

A number of mining operations are located in Kunar province, which borders Pakistan.

It comes three months after an explosion at an education centre in Afghanistan's capital city of Kabul injured at least 42 children. At least 35 of those admitted to hospital in the aftermath of that attack were aged between 10 and 15, Reuters reported.



Relatives of missing people leave a meeting with Zapatista National Liberation Army, EZLN, ahead of a caravan to Mexico City, in San Cristóbal de las Casas, Chiapas state.

Clashes erupt in Tirana as protesters call for PM Edi Rama to resign

Monitoring Desk

TIRANA: Clashes broke out Saturday between police and protesters in the Albanian capital, Tirana, as thousands of people called for the resignation of Prime Minister Edi Rama, the latest in a long series of anti-government protests.

Police used tear gas and water cannons to push back protesters throwing rocks and using wooden sticks to try to smash street cameras and windows on government buildings.

Albanians traveled to Tirana from across the country and abroad for the rally, which coincided with the 114th anniversary of the country's declaration of independence, a day normally marked by national celebrations and a public holiday. Police were deployed along the main roads leading in and out of the capital, conducting vehicle checks.

"I came here specifically for the protest," said Arian Lleshi, a 33-year-old who traveled to Tirana from the United Kingdom. "Why? Because we have been suffering for far too long. We have spread ourselves across Europe and around the world, and it is almost as if we are citizens without a state. We are like stateless citizens."

The political parties that have been around in Albania since the fall of communism in the 1990s "no longer represent anyone," Lleshi said.

UK charity honoring WWII veteran who raised millions in pandemic to be disbanded

Monitoring Desk

LONDON: A charity set up by the family of a British World War II veteran who raised tens of millions of pounds by walking laps of his garden during the coronavirus pandemic has applied to be disbanded, two years after the country's charity watchdog found "repeated" financial misconduct.

An application to have the charitable company created in honor of Capt. Tom Moore removed appeared Friday on the register of Companies House, the official U.K. government executive agency that maintains the public register of British companies, including charitable ones.

Moore, who died in 2021 at 100 years old, raised almost 39 million pounds ($49 million) through his daily walks, inspiring people across the U.K. who followed his exploits in daily TV updates during the early weeks of the pandemic. All of the money he raised was donated to Britain's National Health Service.Moore was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II in July 2020 during an outdoor investiture ceremony at Windsor Castle, in recognition of his huge charity efforts.

Following the success of his fundraising, his family established the Captain Tom Foundation to continue his fundraising efforts. However, the charity was soon embroiled in controversy and Britain's charity regulator concluded in November 2024 that Moore's daughter and son-in-law personally benefited from the charity.

Eight killed in Peruvian military helicopter crash

Monitoring Desk

PERU: Eight military personnel have been killed in a helicopter crash in a remote area of Peru known for growing and trafficking drugs.

Authorities say the aircraft came down near the town of Sanabamba during a mission to evacuate an army patrol in the valley of the Apurimac, Ene, and Mantaro rivers, known by its Spanish acronym VRAEM.

Often referred to as 'Cocaine Valley', the area is Peru's largest coca-growing valley where gangs and the remnants of the former Shining Path rebel group operate.The Peruvian ministry of defence said the pilot was the sole survivor of the crash, the cause of which is still unknown.

In its statement, the ministry said "search and rescue operations located the aircraft and the nine military personnel who were on board".

At least 14 migrants die trying to reach Spain's Canary Islands

Monitoring Desk

SPAIN: At least 14 migrants have died after a suspected engine failure while trying to cross from Africa to the Canary Islands, according to updated news reports on Saturday.

Spain's maritime rescue service said 84 survivors were brought to the Canary island of El Hierro.

The boat was discovered adrift on the open sea on Friday, around 39 nautical miles (72 kilometres) south of the Spanish island. It was thought to have drifted on the Atlantic for several days.

Authorities had initially reported eight fatalities, though the number later rose. The Spanish newspaper El País reported 15 dead. No more people are listed as missing.

The survivors were brought by rescue boats to the port of La Restinga on El Hierro, where another migrant boat carrying 111 people had arrived earlier. The boat with the bodies was towed to another port.

Uganda starts mRNA Ebola vaccine trial in first for Africa

Monitoring Desk

UGANDA: Africa's first clinical trial has begun in Uganda of an mRNA vaccine against the Bundibugyo strain behind a deadly Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

The state-run Uganda Virus Research Institute (UVRI) said in a statement on Friday that the trial began in collaboration with Moderna, a United States-based company which manufactures the vaccine.

The Ugandan trial is the second for the vaccine, after Moderna began.



A protester holds up a pillow with bloody handprints as a symbol of suffocation, during a rally to pay tribute to Kristian Peris.

Indian police disperse protest outside Meta offices with water cannon

Monitoring Desk

GURUGRAM: Police in the northern Indian state of Haryana used a water cannon to disperse activists from the main opposition Congress party protesting outside Meta's offices over allegations that the company is censoring opposition voices.

Activists from the youth wing of the Congress party have staged massive protests outside Meta offices, accusing the company of acting in the interests of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party, in what has become one of the Facebook and Instagram parent's biggest challenges in its largest market by users.

Meta says that it restricts content in India in accordance with local laws. The company has not commented publicly on the protests, but in a closed-door meeting with Congress has conveyed that it remains neutral towards all political parties, according to people familiar with the matter.

The opposition party's youth wing has sued Meta and the Indian government, seeking to strike down a rule that has sharply expanded content restrictions by requiring automated sweeps to remove copies of posts flagged in individual takedown orders.

Yemen government forces hit Houthi positions as UN warns of hunger crisis

Monitoring Desk

SANAA: Yemen's internationally recognised government forces have launched multiple air strikes across Houthi-held territory, with at least 121 Houthis killed or injured over the past day. Reporting from the capital, Sanaa, Al Jazeera's Yousef Mawry said on Saturday that more than six Yemeni governorates were hit overnight by the Saudi-led coalition, which backs the government forces. "In the capital, Sanaa, 13 people were injured, including three critically, who were rushed to a hospital after a gas station was hit in the Tahrir district. The attack also hit homes and shops," he said. The second air attack in Sanaa, according to the Houthis, killed a man and his wife after it hit their home, he added. He also listed an attack on a fuel station in the district of Bani Matar, on the outskirts of Sanaa, a raid on the southern city of Taiz and five air raids in the strategic city of Mocha, along the Red Sea coastline, which targeted a power station. The "Dawn of Yemen" government offensive comes as fighting has escalated in Yemen in the past months, with Saudi-led coalition forces ramping up operations against the Houthis.Military spokesman Colonel Majed al-Nuzaili said earlier on Friday that government forces carried out 726 attacks against Houthi.

Thailand to issue ban on exports of chemicals used in Myanmar rare earth mining

Monitoring Desk

BANGKOK: Thailand will issue a ban on exports of used in mining on Monday, Minister Anutin Charnvirakul said, targeting rare earth mining in Myanmar amid growing concerns over cross-border pollution.

The Defence Ministry would issue the order, Anutin said on a weekly government television programme Saturday, adding that authorities were also seeking alternative water sources to address residents' concerns over river contamination.

France to create strategic rare earth reserves, with resilience coming at a cost

Monitoring Desk

PARIS: A late-term announcement, at a time when France and Europe are facing tensions that are disrupting global trade and supply chains. Emmanuel Macron is launching the creation of reserves of rare earths and critical metals to reduce the country's dependence and anticipate shortages. Three key sectors are targeted: defence, the automotive industry and aerospace.

The plan, seen by Euronews, was unveiled at the start of the week during a meeting at the Élysée called "Protect France", which brought together around 15 industry bosses.

Implementation of this mechanism of strategic reserves and "joint purchases" has been entrusted to the Caisse des dépôts, the state's financial arm.Companies will be required to play their part by diversifying their supply sources, or risk seeing their public support cut. Mechanisms for "price guarantees" will also be offered "to give producers visibility". But many questions remain open. At this stage, the challenge is to define precisely the storage scenarios, the stakeholders involved and the minerals for which needs are most urgent.

MSF 'outraged' over Israeli strike on Gaza clinic that killed two

Monitoring Desk

GAZA: An Israeli strike on a Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) clinic in Gaza killed two staff members, the medical charity has said. The two men were watchmen at the clinic and they were killed in a direct strike on Friday night, MSF said. "Our premises were clearly marked with MSF logos and their location had been communicated to and was known by the Israeli military," said the charity, which described itself as "devastated and outraged" by the attack.MSF, also known as Doctors Without Borders, said the latest killings brought to 17 the number of its colleagues killed in the besieged Palestinian territory.

The Israeli military described the two men as Hamas operatives who were "acting as security guards at a clinic operated by MSF", without giving any evidence. The Israeli military added it was another example of Hamas "embedding itself within international organizations". It named them as Ahmed Sufyan Muhammad Ali Abu Hasira and Moaz Yousef Alitsbach. It alleged they had "advanced plans to carry out attacks against Israeli civilians and [Israeli] troops".

Croatia psychiatric patient death prompts new abuse allegations

Monitoring Desk

CROATIA: New allegations of abuse against psychiatric patients in Croatia are emerging as outrage builds over the death last month of a patient who was beaten and smothered by nurses.

The death of Kristian Josip Peris after he was admitted to a Zagreb hospital has prompted two weekends of rallies in the Croatian capital and elsewhere, and sparked a national debate about psychiatric care. Seven nurses and a doctor have been arrested after leaked surveillance footage showed medical staff punching a strapped-down Peris in the chest and holding a pillow over the struggling 32-year-old's face.In the weeks since his October death, campaigners have launched a push for an investigation and his family have demanded reforms. New allegations have emerged on social media and in local media. "The use of force is neither isolated nor exceptional. Of course, the outcome is not always fatal," Davorka Vukadin, head of the national mental health advocacy network SUMEZ, told AFP. She cited notably excessive and prolonged use of force as well as a lack of clear procedures to calm agitated patients.



Around 20 people were killed when a Myanmar military airstrike hit a wedding venue in a conflict area, witnesses said, the second mass casualty incident in the country in three days.

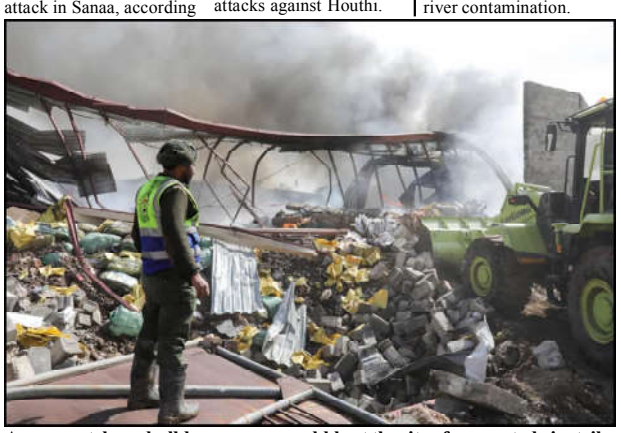
India finds Bisleri water unsafe again, this time over coliform bacteria

Monitoring Desk

NEW DELHI: Indian authorities have found a sample of Bisleri unsafe to drink because of coliform bacteria, the second such finding for the nation's biggest packaged-water brand to come to light in recent days.

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India told Bisleri in a notice on 12 August to stop the sale of the affected batch because of the bacteria.

"The sample was found to be non-conforming. It shows the presence of coliform," the notice said.The sample was tested again for confirmation and was still found unsafe, according to a government official who declined to be named because the results were not public, Reuters reported. Bisleri said it had recalled the batch in August on the government's instructions.



A man watches a bulldozer remove rubble at the site of a reported air strike on warehouses north of Sanaa, Yemen.

President Zardar reaffirms principled support for Palestine

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari reaffirmed Pakistan's principled and unwavering support for the Palestinian people and their legitimate right to freedom, dignity and self-determination.

In a message on the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People observed on 29 November, he said, "The continuing humanitarian crisis in Gaza, with its devastating loss of civilian lives, destruction of homes and essential infrastructure, forced displacement and severe shortages of basic necessities, remains a matter of grave concern. The suffering of the Palestinian people also reflects the failure of the international community to ensure the protection of their fundamental rights. The situation in the West Bank is equally troubling, with growing settler violence, the expansion of illegal settlements and attempts at annexation further undermining the prospects for peace."

"Pakistan's solidarity with Palestine is rooted in the very foundations of our nationhood. At the historic Lahore session of the All-India Muslim League in March 1940, which adopted the resolution that laid the foundation for Pakistan, a separate resolution was also passed in support of the rights of the Arabs of Palestine. Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah likewise championed their legitimate demands.

Pakistan committed to resolution of Palestinian issue: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif said Pakistan remained firmly committed to a just, lasting and comprehensive resolution of the Palestinian question, in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions, international law and the Arab Peace Initiative. In a message on the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People observed on 29 November, he said, "On the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, the Government and the people of Pakistan reaffirm our unwavering solidarity with our Palestinian brothers and sisters in their just struggle for freedom, dignity and the realization of their inalienable right to self-determination." "For decades, the Palestinian people have endured the grave consequences of illegal occupation, dispossession, and repeated cycles of violence. The immense human suffering in Gaza, the widespread destruction of civilian infrastructure, forced displacement.



Rescue operations continue for fourth day after building collapse in Karachi's administrative employees cooperative housing society, police detain contractor and four others.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador-designate of Pakistan to Ireland, Mr. Afaq Ahmed, calling on Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, at Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Kamal launches national diabetes helpline, AI-based app to prevent amputations

KARACHI (APP): Federal Health Minister Syed Mustafa Kamal on Saturday launched a national diabetes helpline, an artificial intelligence-based mobile application and a specialised training programme for doctors to prevent diabetic foot complications, reduce amputations and improve diabetes care across Pakistan.

The initiatives, launched at the Baqai Institute of Diabetology and Endocrinology (BIDE) in Karachi, aim to ensure early diagnosis and timely treatment of diabetic foot ulcers, reduce amputations by 50 percent and shorten the average wound-healing period from three months to one month.

Speaking on the occasion, Federal Health Minister Mustafa Kamal warned that Pakistan's healthcare system could collapse under the growing burden of diseases and rapid population growth unless the country shifted its focus from treating illnesses to preventing them.

"Pakistan does not have a healthcare system but a sick care system. Real healthcare is about preventing people from falling ill rather than constructing hospitals, producing doctors and acquiring sophisticated medical equipment," he said.

Former Sindh health minister Dr Sagheer Ahmed, MQM leader Anis Kaimkhani, BIDE Director Prof Zahid Miyan, Dr Saiful-Haq, trustees of the Baqai Foundation and several medical professionals were present on the occasion.

Briefing the federal minister, eminent diabetologist and Director BIDE Dr Zahid Miyan said delayed diagnosis, inadequate referral mechanisms and a shortage of specialised diabetic foot clinics were contributing to preventable amputations and disabilities among people living with diabetes in Pakistan.

He said an estimated amputation occurred every two minutes in Pakistan, while the additional financial burden associated with a lower limb amputation could reach Rs800,000. Treatment of a single diabetic foot ulcer could cost the equivalent of 22 months of an average Pakistani's salary.

Nearly 90 percent of patients walked barefoot, increasing their vulnerability to foot injuries and infections, he said, adding that many patients reached specialised facilities when their wounds had deteriorated to the extent that amputations became unavoidable.

Aurangzeb seeks MUFAP tax proposals, calls for wider investor base

KARACHI (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Saturday invited the Mutual Funds Association of Pakistan (MUFAP) to submit tax proposals to the government, saying it was ready to address taxation and regulatory issues as the industry seeks to attract more investors. Speaking as chief guest at MUFAP's silver jubilee dinner in Karachi, Aurangzeb said the mutual fund industry could learn from the Pakistan Stock Exchange's success in attracting younger investors. He said millennials and Generation Z accounted for 60 to 70 per cent of the increase in PSX investors.

Aurangzeb said younger, financially savvy investors were looking for opportunities in the financial sector and that innovation would be critical to reaching them. He urged fund managers to make it easier for households to invest small amounts regularly through simpler account opening, payments via Raast and investor guidance in Urdu. He said export led growth is the solution of Pakistan's needs as it could help Pakistan reduce its reliance on external borrowing. Aurangzeb congratulated MUFAP on completing 25 years and described the association as an important partner for the government in expanding investment and savings. He said the government was ready to work with the industry on its proposals to improve tax and regulatory policy. Pakistan's mutual fund industry had Rs 4.72 trillion in assets under management and reported 1.94 million individual investor accounts at the end of September 2026.

Terrorism inflicted heavy losses on Pakistan, KP among worst hit: Malik

ABBOTTABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Climate Change Dr Musadik Malik has said Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is bearing the heaviest burden of terrorism, stressing that the government cannot allow citizens, particularly children and women, to continue losing their lives without an effective response.

Talking to the media here on Saturday, he said the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were among the bravest in the country, standing firmly against terrorism, while security personnel and police officers were making immense sacrifices to protect citizens.

He said the government had a responsibility to stand by the police and other security personnel who risked their lives to protect citizens.Whenever intelligence-based operations were proposed against terrorist networks, he regretted, the issue was politicised rather than discussed on its merits.

The minister questioned those opposing operations about their alternative strategy, saying that if they neither supported action against terrorists nor presented a clear plan for negotiations, it was difficult to understand how they intended to protect the people.

He said the position of militant groups was clear, as they wanted to impose in Pakistan the system they were enforcing in Afghanistan.

Dr Musadik Malik said the government could not remain silent while people, including children and women, continued to be killed in terrorist attacks. He said the decision was difficult but necessary in view of the responsibility to protect citizens.

Pak renews commitment to Palestinian cause: DPM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Prime Minister/ Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar said Pakistan renews its commitment to the Palestinian cause and calls upon the international community to move beyond expressions of solidarity and take concrete, coordinated and sustained action to end the suffering of the Palestinian people and secure their legitimate rights. In a message on the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People observed on November 29, he said, "On the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people, Pakistan reaffirms its unwavering solidarity with the Palestinian people and its steadfast support for their inalienable right to self-determination.

Senator says: Pakistan has played vital role during US-Iran war

KARACHI (APP): The Pakistan Institute of International Affairs (PIIA) organized a session under the theme of "From 1985 to 2026 Pakistan and Multiple International Challenges: Many Changes or No Change?" at PIIA library here on Saturday.

Senator (Retd.) Javed Jabbar addressed the members of The Pakistan Institute of International Affairs and invitees to mark the launch of A Voice in the Senate, Speeches in Parliament 1985 1991 (in three volumes).

The theme of his talk focused From 1985 to 2026 Pakistan and Multiple International Challenges: Many Changes or No Change?

Senator Javed Jabbar said that Pakistan had faced many challenges during the period.He said that Pakistan had always remained steadfast to resolve the issues.Jabbar said that Pakistan played vital role recently during the United States and Iran war. It played the role of mediator, he added

Pakistan, Cyprus hold inaugural bilateral political consultations

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan and the Republic of Cyprus held their inaugural Bilateral Political Consultations in Islamabad on Thursday.



The Pakistani side was led by Director General (Middle East) Ambassador Muhammad Hassan Wazir, while the Cypriot side was led by Political Director Ambassador Thessalia Salina Shambos.

The two sides reviewed bilateral relations covering political, economic, cultural, educational and consular cooperation. They also discussed cooperation at the multilateral forums, including the UN.

The delegations exchanged views on regional and global issues of mutual interest. The Cypriot side appreciated Pakistan's diplomatic efforts to promote peace in the region.

The two sides agreed to hold the next round of consultations on a mutually convenient date.

Pakistan Ulema Council Hosting guests from KSA, Turkiye matter of honour, privilege for Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Ulema Council and the International Tazeem-e-Haramain Sharifain Council have welcomed the holding of the second meeting of the Strategic Political and Defence Committee of the Makkah Alliance for Defence in Islamabad, describing it as a reflection of growing trust, deepening friendship and strengthening defence and diplomatic cooperation among Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Turkiye.

In a joint statement, the two organisations said it was a matter of honour and privilege for Pakistan to host the high-level delegations from Saudi Arabia and Turkiye. The warm welcome extended to the distinguished guests in Islamabad reflected the love and respect of the Pakistani people for the people and leadership of both brotherly countries.

Pakistan, Azerbaijan SCs to sign judicial cooperation MoU on Dec 2

MIRPUR (INP): Chief Justice of the High Court of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Justice Sardar Liaqat Hussain, will attend the signing ceremony of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Supreme Court of Pakistan and the Supreme Court of the Republic of Azerbaijan in Islamabad on December 2, at the invitation of Chief Justice of Pakistan, Justice Yahya Afridi.

Pakistan seeks closer cooperation with China on space research: Ahsan Iqbal

BEIJING (INP): Pakistan wants to expand space cooperation with China to build its own research capabilities and use satellite technology in agriculture, water management and disaster preparedness, Ahsan Iqbal, minister for planning, development and special initiatives said.

Speaking here at a press conference at the Embassy of Pakistan , Iqbal described the launch of the Shenzhou-24 mission carrying Pakistani astronaut Muhammad Zeeshan Ali as a milestone in scientific cooperation between the two countries.

According to China Economic Net, he thanked the Chinese leadership, the government and the China Manned Space Agency for giving Pakistan the opportunity to participate in China's crewed space programme.

He said Pakistan hoped to build on the mission through closer cooperation in space science and exploration.

"This is not the finish line; this is the beginning of a new partnership for us to advance space exploration," Iqbal said.

Iqbal recalled that the two countries had begun discussing the possibility of sending a Pakistani astronaut into space as early as 2017–2018.

Their earlier work together under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor had focused on energy and transport infrastructure and had since expanded to fibre-optic connectivity, he said.

Iqbal said China's experience in satellite technology could help Pakistan prepare for natural disasters.



Jamaat-e-Islami Chief Hafiz Naeem-ur Rehman addresses participants at Jamaat-e-Islami women's wing training camp in Hyderabad.

Muqam accuses PTI of corruption, poor governance during 14-year rule in KP

UPPER SWAT (APP): Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit-Baltistan and SAFRON Engineer Amir Muqam on Saturday accused Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) of corruption, poor governance and neglect of public issues during its 14-year rule in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, claiming that the province had been left underdeveloped and people were confronted with mounting difficulties.

He vowed that the PTI would be held accountable for its alleged corruption and misuse of public resources, saying the present government had adopted a zero-tolerance policy towards corruption and terrorism.

"Providing peace, development and prosperity to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is our foremost responsibility," he said, stressing that concerted efforts were being made to improve the security situation in the province and address the longstanding problems faced by its people.

Engineer Amir Muqam, who is also president of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, was addressing a large public gathering organised by his party in Upper Swat to celebrate what he termed Youm e Nijat, marking the end of PTI's 14-year rule in the province, besides welcoming new members into the party. The gathering witnessed the joining of former Swat District Nazim Jamal Nasir Khan, who joined the PML-N along with his family members and thousands of supporters. A large number of PML-N leaders, workers and supporters attended the event. Welcoming Jamal Nasir Khan and his supporters into the party fold, Engineer Amir Muqam termed their joining a positive political development and expressed confidence that the new alliance would help accelerate development.

Pakistani dramas pose no threat to Indian culture, criticises calls for Netflix ban

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Peoples Party Vice President and Senator Sherry Rehman, in a message on X, criticised calls in India to ban Pakistani dramas on Netflix, saying that such demands reflect insecurity rather than confidence. She said cultural differences between India and Pakistan are not new, but the reaction of Indian Hindu nationalist groups to Pakistani television content is surprising. She noted that Indian films often portray Pakistan negatively, while Pakistani dramas present a more realistic picture of the country's society, culture and everyday life.

Sherry Rehman said Pakistani dramas are not directed against India but simply tell stories about Pakistani society. They pose no threat to Indian culture or identity and are not an attempt to exert cultural influence over India.

She clarified that Pakistan's first Netflix original production has been commissioned by Netflix MENA, not Netflix India, adding that no external entity has the authority to define Pakistan's identity, region or history.

The Senator said India has no right to question Pakistan's borders or national identity. She also rejected calls by certain Indian political figures for Pakistan's dismemberment, based on what she described as unsupported allegations.

Highlighting Pakistan's changing geopolitical and diplomatic position, she said Pakistan is playing a constructive role in promoting peace and seeking solutions to conflicts. She added that Pakistan's efforts for peace are being recognised by international institutions and countries around the world.

Commenting on water-related issues, Sherry Rehman said using water as a weapon represents a deeply concerning humanitarian development and reflects an alarming mindset.

She stressed that chauvinism and hatred are not signs of strength but of insecurity. Confident nations demonstrate confidence through their actions rather than hostility towards others. She added that while Pakistan responds decisively when attacked, it does not believe in cultivating hatred towards other nations.



ISLAMABAD: Students visit the three-day "Pakistan in Space – Kehkashan: Mission Control Center" exhibition, organized by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting at the Pak-China Friendship Centre in Islamabad to celebrate the historic participation of Pakistani astronaut Muhammad Zeeshan Ali in China's space mission and highlight the country's growing aspirations in space exploration.

JUI-F workers told to maintain unity, follow central leadership orders

QUETTA (ANN): Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) Balochistan President Senator Maulana Abdul Wasey has called on party officeholders and workers across the province to maintain unity, organizational discipline and close coordination amid what he described as a challenging situation. In a message conveyed through his special representative, Maulana Wasey directed members of provincial and district Shuras, officeholders, affiliated organizations and workers at tehsil and unit levels to remain organized and await further instructions from the party's central leadership.

He condemned what he alleged was the sealing of JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman's residence and mosque, along with the alleged theft of a vehicle and arrest of Maulana Asjad Mahmood. He described the reported actions as authoritarian measures and violations of democratic principles. The JUI-F provincial president stressed the importance of consultation and effective communication within the party and urged workers to remain prepared to respond to developments in accordance with directions from the central leadership.

He said arrests, political pressure and what he termed unconstitutional measures would not weaken the party's commitment to constitutional supremacy, democratic rights and the rule of law.

Maulana Abdul Wasey reiterated that JUI-F would continue its political struggle through peaceful, constitutional and democratic means, calling on party workers to demonstrate patience, political maturity and determination while opposing measures it considers unconstitutional or authoritarian.

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